Daily Report

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arms Control & Disarmament

Official Views Antimissile System With U.S. *[TASS]* 1
NEW TIMES Examines Nuclear Problems *[8-14 Oct]* 1
NATO Nuclear Planning Group Session Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Oct]* 3
Deryabin Cited on Prague CSCE Session *[TASS]* 3

Worldwide Issues

Preparations for Madrid Conference Begin *[TASS]* 4
Gorbachev Interviewed on Peace *[TASS]* 4
Obukhov Interviewed on Summit *[INTERFAX]* 5
Commentary on Nuclear Breakthrough *[Moscow International]* 6
G-7 Representatives Meet Republic Delegates *[TASS]* 6
Silayev Discusses Foreign Debt *[TASS]* 7
Yavlinskiy Meeting Reported *[Russian TV]* 7
Expert Opposes Moratorium on Foreign Debt *[INTERFAX]* 7
Officials on Reported Outstanding UN Dues *[INTERFAX]* 8
Official Interviewed on Arrears *[INTERFAX]* 8
Petrovskiy Remarks on Republics' UN Membership *[TASS]* 8
Petrovskiy Meets Perez de Cuellar *[TASS]* 9

United States & Canada

Further Reportage on Petrovskiy's U.S. Visit *[TASS]* 9
Deputy Foreign Minister, U.S. Official Meet *[TASS]* 9
Yakovlev To Head Global Stability Team Talks *[TASS]* 10
Talks With U.S. Defense Department Previewed *[TASS]* 10
Bush Notes Intelligence Community's Needs *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 25 Oct]* 10
Official on Joint Transsiberian Express Venture *[Moscow International]* 10
U.S. Reconsiders Technology Exchange Policy *[TASS]* 11

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Radio Commentary Queries Khmer Rouge Intentions *[Moscow International]* 11

Near East & South Asia

Soviet Role in Mideast Peace Process Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 26 Oct]* 11
GCC States Welcome Madrid Peace Conference *[TASS]* 13
Hard-Line Israeli Stance Expected at Talks *[IZVESTIYA 25 Oct]* 14
Moscow Arabic Views Madrid Peace Conference *[Moscow International]* 14
Prospects for Mideast Peace Questioned *[PRAVDA 22 Oct]* 15
Pakistan's Nuclear Capability Examined *[Moscow International]* 15
Pakistan Urged To Sway Afghan Rebels *[Moscow International]* 16
Shaposhnikov Meets Iranian Envoy on 22 Oct *[IRNA]* 16

East Europe

Gorbachev, Genscher on SFRY Issues *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 17
Serbian Opposition Leader on SFRY Crisis *[INTERFAX]* 17
Troop Withdrawal Treaty Signed With Poland *[TASS]* 17
Polish Foreign Minister on Treaty *[Warsaw PAP]* 18
Property in Question as Army Leaves Poland *[IZVESTIYA 25 Oct]* 18
Hungary Marks Invasion Anniversary *[IZVESTIYA 25 Oct]* 19
Hungary To Deliver 3 Million Tonnes of Grain *[Radio Rossii]* 20

West Europe

Gorbachev, Mitterrand To Meet 30 Oct *[TASS]* 20
TASS Details Gorbachev-Genscher Talks 20
Further on Talks *[TASS]* 21
Pankin, Genscher Hold 'Successful' Talks *[TASS]* 22
Discuss Economic, International Scene *[TASS]* 22
Discuss NATO, Financial Cooperation *[Hamburg DPA]* 22
Genscher Cited on Talks in Moscow *[IZVESTIYA 28 Oct]* 23
Shaposhnikov Receives German Parliamentarians *[TASS]* 24
Troops in Germany Increase Security *[TASS]* 24
Foreign Minister Pankin Visits France 24
Meets Foreign Affairs Official *[TASS]* 24
Meets With Dumas *[TASS]* 25
Talks With Businessmen *[Moscow TV]* 25
Says Gorbachev Controls Nuclear Arms *[Paris AFP]* 26
Departs Paris *[TASS]* 26
Cypriot President Arrives in Moscow on Visit *[TASS]* 27
Meets With Gorbachev *[TASS]* 27
Cypriot Ambassador on Relations *[Moscow International]* 27

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Session Continues Work 29
Laws Adopted, Organization Viewed *[TASS]* 29
Participation in Economic Union Urged *[TASS]* 29
Standing Commissions Created *[TASS]* 29
Deputies Interviewed *[INTERFAX]* 29

Political & Social

Political Consultative Council on Economic Treaty *[TASS]* 31
Economic Committee Structure, G-7 Meeting 31
Republican Leaders' Meeting Previewed *[INTERFAX]* 31
Interview With Silayev *[TASS]* 31
Interview With Fokin, Silayev *[Moscow TV]* 32
Forthcoming Talks Discussed *[INTERFAX]* 33
New Structure Unveiled *[INTERFAX]* 33
Further on CPSU Financial Practices, Dealings 34
Grachev on Spending, GDR Links *[Radio Rossii]* 34
Gorbachev Accused of Involvement *[Russian TV]* 34
'Unique Material' on Transfers *[Russian TV]* 34
State Security Reform 'Just Beginning' *[TASS]* 35
Evidence of Active KGB Involvement in Coup *[TASS]* 35
Observers on Ukraine, Northern Territories *[Moscow Radio]* 36
Socialist Workers' Party Programming Document *[INTERFAX]* 36
Poll Results Support Democracy, Yeltsin *[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Oct 91]* 36
Poll on Politician's Guiding Motives *[INTERFAX]* 37
TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Oct 37

Economic

Customs Committee's 'Program of Reorientation' 38
Food Imports Duties Lifted *[TASS]* 38
Further on Customs Policy *[Moscow Radio]* 38
Decline in 1992 Production Output Inevitable *[TASS]* 39
Committee To Increase Foreign Food Supplies *[Moscow TV]* 39
Additional Western Food Credits Urged 40
Appeal Made *[INTERFAX]* 40
Western Aid Considered Essential *[Moscow TV]* 40
Unemployment Problem, 'Menacing Proportions' *[INTERFAX]* 40
Economic Ministry Forecasts *[INTERFAX]* 40
Indices Reveal Continuing Crisis *[INTERFAX]* 40
Public Surveyed on Lower Standard of Living *[INTERFAX]* 41

Military

Shaposhnikov on Control of Nuclear Weapons *[TASS]* 42
Russian, Ukrainian Nuclear Exchange 'Impossible' *[INTERFAX]* 42
'Largest Nuclear Accident' in Navy Revealed *[TASS]* 42
Baltics Withdrawal Not Before 1994 *[Tallinn Radio]* 43
Comments on Need for New Military Doctrine 43
Chief of Staff Lobov *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Oct]* 43
Information Chief Manilov *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 Oct]* 48
Radio Commentary *[Moscow International]* 48
Officers' Assembly Becoming 'More Democratic' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 Oct]* 49

BALTIC COUNTRIES

Baltic Affairs

USSR Relinquishes Control of Air Traffic *[Vilnius International]* 50
Temporary Customs Border Approved *[BALTFAX]* 50

Estonia

Savisaar, Shaposhnikov Sign Withdrawal Pact *[IZVESTIYA 25 Oct]* 50
NATO Membership Called Sovereignty 'Guarantee' *[TASS]* 50
Raivo Vare Named Acting Prime Minister *[BALTFAX]* 51
Russian Representative Notes Developing Ties *[Tallinn Radio]* 51
Minister Discusses Trade With Russia *[BALTFAX]* 51
Changes to Judicial System Legislated *[Tallinn Radio]* 51
Russian Democratic Movement Holds Congress *[Moscow TV]* 52
Post-Coup Investigation in Northeast Viewed *[Tallinn Radio]* 52

Latvia

Talks With Yakovlev in Moscow Noted *[Riga Radio]* 52
Accord With Russia Possible Within Month *[BALTFAX]* 53
Supreme Council Adopts Human Rights Law *[Riga Radio]* 53
Demonstrators Picket Supreme Council Building *[BALTFAX]* 53
Gorbunovs Meets Korean Delegation in Riga *[Riga International]* 54
Trade Agreement Reached With Ukraine *[BALTFAX]* 54

Lithuania

Government Delegation Leaves for U.S. *[Radio Vilnius]* 54
Defense Minister Meets NATO Secretary General *[BALTFAX]* 54
Russian Official Holds Talks on Delayed Treaty *[Vilnius International]* 54
Landsbergis, Belorussian Official Meet *[Vilnius International]* 55
Procuracy To Probe Crimes Against Humanity *[Vilnius International]* 56

Lithuanian-Polish Border 'More Complex' *[Vilnius International]* 56

RSFSR

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Previews Yeltsin Reform Package *[Moscow TV]* 57
Khasbulatov Says Many Reforms Not Working *[Moscow TV]* 57
Deputies Doubt Success of Economic Reforms *[TASS]* 57
Deputy Travkin Interviewed on Dec Elections *[Russian TV]* 58
Session Calls For Measures in South Ossetia *[TASS]* 58

Fifth Congress of People's Deputies

Yeltsin Intends To Deliver Opening Address *[Radio Rossii]* 58
Session To Elect Chief, Adopt Constitution *[TASS]* 58
Yeltsin: 'Time Has Come' for Action *[TASS]* 59
Yeltsin Asks Congress for Additional Powers *[TASS]* 59
Yeltsin Offers To Head Russian Government *[TASS]* 59
Yeltsin Plans Liberalization of Prices *[TASS]* 59
Yeltsin Says Federation May Form Own Army *[TASS]* 60
People's Deputies Approve Six-Point Agenda *[TASS]* 60

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Sets Moratorium on Nuclear Tests *[INTERFAX]* 60
Yeltsin Names Candidates for Prime Minister *[INTERFAX]* 60
Communist Democratic Party Holds 1st Congress 61
Rutskoy Urges Reforms *[Moscow TV]* 61
Yakovlev Views Manifesto *[Moscow Radio]* 61
Rutskoy Addresses Session *[TASS]* 62
Rutskoy on Possible Chairmanship *[Moscow TV]* 62
Session Ends; Rutskoy Comments *[Moscow Radio]* 63
Rutskoy Views 'New Party' *[PRAVDA 28 Oct]* 63
TASS Reviews Two-Day Meeting 64
Leftist Forces, Communists Set Up New Party *[TASS]* 64
Central Bank Official on Appearance of Currency *[TASS]* 65

Local Affairs

Yeltsin Appoints Chechen-Ingush Representative *[Moscow TV]* 65
Chechen Republic Holds Elections 27 Oct 65
Groznyy Reacts to Resolution *[TASS]* 65
Dudayev Holds News Conference *[Moscow Radio]* 66
Arsanov Appeals to Homeland *[Moscow TV]* 66
Some Polls Open in Republic *[Moscow Radio]* 67
Balloting Proceeding Calmly *[Radio Rossii]* 67
Supporters Praise Dudayev Victory *[TASS]* 67
Jewish Oblast Proclaimed Autonomous Republic *[TASS]* 67
Khabarovsk Meeting Urges Far East Republic *[INTERFAX]* 68
Komi Assumes Right To Veto USSR Decisions *[Russian TV]* 68
Tatar Supreme Soviet Passes Independence Act *[INTERFAX]* 68

External Affairs

Yeltsin, Uzbekistan President Sign Trade Pact *[Russian TV]* 68
Leaders Laud Accords *[Moscow TV]* 68
Lukin Interviewed on Relations With Uzbekistan *[Moscow TV]* 69

International Affairs

Kozyrev Signs Relations Protocol With Estonia *[TASS]* 70
Republics Criticize Russia's Economic Policy *[INTERFAX]* 71
Yeltsin Conducts Phone Conversation With Bush *[TASS]* 71
Khasbulatov Says Laws Safeguard Investments *[INTERFAX]* 71
Supreme Soviet Debates Relations With Japan *[INTERFAX]* 71
Kamchatka Appeal Protests Return of Islands *[Tokyo KYODO]* 72
Kozyrev, German Counterpart on Bilateral Links *[TASS]* 72
Fyodorov Denies Decision To Extradite Honecker *[TASS]* 72
Fedorov Studying Proposal To Head Government *[TASS]* 72
Defense Official Comments on Joining NATO *[TASS]* 73

WESTERN REPUBLICS

Belorussia

Minsk Protesters Demand Government Resignation *[Radio Rossii]* 74
Council of Ministers Adopts Military Draft *[Minsk Radio]* 74

Moldova

Dnestr To Elect 'Own President' 1 Dec *[Russian TV]* 74
'Supreme Economic Council' Created *[Moscow Radio]* 74

Ukraine

Reportage on Republic Nuclear Weapons Issue 75
Kravchuk Supports Central Control *[Moscow TV]* 75
Desire To Retain Weapons Denied *[INTERFAX]* 75
Official on Nuclear Control Policy *[Moscow TV]* 75
Defense Official on Nuclear Control *[Kiev Radio]* 75
Report Called 'Misinformation' *[INTERFAX]* 76
Commentator Wary of Status Statement *[TASS]* 76
Laws on Nuclear Arms Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Oct]* 77
Results of Supreme Soviet Meetings Noted 78
Move to Observer Status Viewed *[TASS]* 78
Further on Observer Status *[Russian TV]* 78
Nonnuclear Commitment Declared *[INTERFAX]* 78
Interrepublic Cooperation Debated *[Kiev International]* 78
Fokin Economic Program Criticized *[Kiev International]* 78
Kravchuk Remarks on Ukraine-Crimean Relations *[Kiev International]* 79
Speech Eases Tension *[IZVESTIYA 25 Oct]* 79
Two More Presidential Candidates Registered *[Kiev Radio]* 79
Candidates Visit Odessa *[Moscow TV]* 79
Kravchuk Meets Workers *[Kiev Radio]* 80
Ukrainian Communists Form New Party *[INTERFAX]* 80

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Armenia, Azerbaijan Officials Discuss Crisis 81
Appeal Issued *[TASS]* 81
Talks Called 'Fruitful' *[TASS]* 81
Constructive Proposals Noted *[Russian TV]* 81
Talks Reach 'Successful' End *[INTERFAX]* 82
President on Recognition of Independence *[TASS]* 82
Energy Crisis Prompts Restrictive Measures *[TASS]* 82
Azerbaijani Trains Resume Travel in Armenia *[TASS]* 83

Azerbaijan

Official Views Resolving NKAO Conflict *[TASS]* 83
General Urges MVD Troops To Leave NKAO *[TASS]* 83
NKAO Command Updates News on Fighting *[TASS]* 83
Handing Over Arms, Equipment Demanded *[Russian TV]* 84
100,000 Criticize President Over Ukraine Appeal *[Radio Rossii]* 84
Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive in Italy *[TASS]* 84

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Extends South Ossetian Emergency *[TASS]* 84
Further Firing, Explosions Cited *[Radio Rossii]* 84
26 Oct Situation Summarized *[TASS]* 85
Residents Fear Attacks *[TASS]* 85
Gamsakhurdia Urges Abkhaz Toward 'Civic Accord' *[Tbilisi Radio]* 85
Georgian Opposition Plans 'Information War' *[Moscow TV]* 86
Republican People's Army To Be Established *[Moscow TV]* 86
Decree on Administering State Property Cited *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 12 Oct]* 86
TV Station Broadcasts Under Protection *[INTERFAX]* 87
TV Journalist Released from Custody *[IZVESTIYA 25 Oct]* 87
Deaths Cited in Assault on Georgian Prison *[AFP]* 87

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev To Run for Republican President *[TASS]* 88
Nazarbayev Leaves for UK on Official Visit *[TASS]* 88
State Defense Committee Established 25 Oct *[TASS]* 88
Defense Official on Joint Nuclear Control *[AFP]* 88

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Meets U.S. President in Washington *[TASS]* 89
Regulations on Free Economic Zones Endorsed *[INTERFAX]* 89

Turkmenia

Constitutional Law on Independence Adopted *[TASS]* 90
Russian Population Concerned *[Moscow TV]* 90

Arms Control & Disarmament

Official Views Antimissile System With U.S.

LD2610092191 Moscow TASS in English
0909 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Vitaliy Shlykov, deputy head of the Russian Committee for Defence, told the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper on Saturday [26 October], the Soviet Union and the United States may cooperate in creating a global anti-missile defence system.

"The Soviet Union's strategic defence lags behind the United States', but the Soviet Union (Russia) needs an effective anti- missile system to ensure its security even now when there is no global confrontation with the United States," Shlykov said.

"Soviet designers could share their experience with their U.S. colleagues if they decide to join their efforts in this field," Shlykov said.

He said the idea was proposed by the United States during a Soviet military delegation's visit to the United States in the beginning of 1991. The delegation was headed by Konstantin Kobets, head of the Russian Parliamentary Committee for Military Reform.

"The world has changed over the past two years. The former simple balance between the United States and the Soviet Union no longer exists. At the same time, the number of countries with ballistic missiles and nuclear capacities continues to grow," Shlykov said.

"The United States is also concerned about the situation in the Soviet Union, fearing the disintegration of the Soviet Union may increase the number of independent republics with strategic nuclear weapons aimed against the United States and its allies," Shlykov said.

He believes the situation in the world can be stabilised only through joint efforts by the Soviet Union and the United States.

NEW TIMES Examines Nuclear Problems

PM2510145091 Moscow NEW TIMES in English
No. 40, 8-14 Oct 91 pp 14-15

[Pavel Bayev article: "Russia's Nuclear Burden"]

[Text] For the first time in human history a democratic revolution has taken place in a nuclear power. The rich revolutionary experience of our country shows the main problems are still ahead. The democratic forces have just broken the first bulwark of the opposition, and their leader has just announced the first democratic decrees. It has become clear, however, that many former policies on European security are senseless. The main idea behind the balance of power has proved abstract and ill-founded. The most intricate nuclear equations underlying the Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, which was considered of historic importance but yesterday, today evoke nothing but regret over the wasted time. One more thing has now become clear. The nuclear factor greatly increases the risk of conflicts generated by revolutionary situations, and makes the whole of Europe a hostage of unpredictable social changes which are hard to control. New developments make it indispensable to urgently revise the nuclear status of our country.

Inner Deterrent

Nuclear relations among sovereign republics is the first thing to specify now. Today the USSR nuclear club consists of three members: the Russian Republic, the Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Perhaps even two, if we take into consideration that the Ukrainian government proclaimed a nuclear-free policy. The nature of nuclear relations should be specified without delay, because after presidential elections the isolationist tendencies in the republic can markedly grow. The danger of nationalism can scarcely be exaggerated. Combined with nuclear ambitions it can be detrimental to any government system.

It should be noted that even a nuclear-free Ukraine will pose a definite challenge to the security of a new Union. It results from the fact that 10 republican leaders, with the best of intentions, are trying to shape the new Union on the basis of two incompatible patterns: a "loose confederation" with a free market economy with common armed forces. The economic and military-strategic areas only seem homogeneous. In reality, though, the economic area is yet to be built up, while the military and strategic area can hardly be retained. Republics cannot be sovereign without their own armies. Para-military formations, like National Guards, are but the first step in that direction. The second might be the demand of the republics that conscripts should perform active service only in their native territories. Following that, demands on the division of military property might be expected. All this evolution will hardly take more than one year.

The Ukraine, counting on the numerous army officers and its well developed military infrastructure, is better prepared than any other republic to form its own armed forces. There are quite a few forces and situations which can easily create tensions in this quasi-state. (To my mind, for instance, the Crimea would sooner invite the descendants of Baron Vrangel than welcome a president representing the Rukh movement.) Hence armed forces may be used for "peace- keeping" operations in interior conflicts. In this light the statement by the representative of President Yeltsin concerning the boundaries does not look overly bold or mistaken. It is necessary to state one's position while the monopoly of the means of pressure is retained.

Of course, even disguised nuclear blackmail is out of the question. Nevertheless, there exists the effect of nuclear deterrence, because of which even the most resolute

leaders are cautious in adopting risky resolutions. The strategy of "inner deterrent" should be based not on threats, but on the common realization of responsibility, which can promote consolidation. The atmosphere of confidence should prevail and new structures are to be set up. One such structure could be a nuclear consultation centre open for cooperation among all members of a new Union. It would be not out of place to recall that Norway and Denmark, both nuclear-free countries on principle, participate in the NATO Nuclear Planning Group.

Apparently, the nuclear responsibilities of a new Union centre will boil down to consultations and planning procedures, with Russia actually keeping nuclear potential under control. Such a state of affairs will have certain advantages (a permanent membership in the UN Security Council will be kept, for instance), but also will entail more problems and heavier responsibilities. None other than Russia will have to ensure the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons within the ex-USSR. None other than Russia will bear responsibility for the security of nuclear stockpiles. And this problem calls for serious attention.

Preventive Measures

Let's begin with stating the fact that it is impossible to ensure an acceptable security level of the existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons. This conclusion might seem peremptory, but many things prove that it is correct. I shall mention three of them. The democratization of a social system influences its military establishment. In this situation no escapades of Army and Naval officers can be considered too extravagant. Even the Hunt for "Red October" best seller about the run-away Soviet nuclear submarine will fade in this light. The danger of terrorism keeps growing before our very eyes, and nuclear warheads urgently being withdrawn from the centres of tension are a perfect object for terrorists. Last but not least, amidst a general mess intricate technological systems fail now and then. We had some instances of this in peace time, like the terrific explosion of missile depots in Severomorsk in May 1984.

In my view, instead of citing more examples to prove my point it would be better to try to think of some preventive measures. The first of them can be stricter centralized control over nuclear wepaons. Situations like the one in Foros, when the supreme commander of the army forces was deprived of access to the strategic nuclear arms control panel, should be utterly exluded. (By the way, it is still not clear who got access to that panel then.) For the near future perhaps it would be agreed that two persons are to exercise that control: the president of the USSR and the president of Russia. Before long it could be necessary to secure the personal control of the Russian president and to legalize the procedure of passing control in extraordinary cases.

The second measure can be a technological one, based on the latest methods excluding the use of nuclear weapons without official government approval. It is necessary to carefully inspect all nuclear installations, to enlarge the best protected depots, to close small ones, and to limit the number of exercises with the deployment of nuclear weapons. It is worthwhile to recall that top secrecy does not always guarantee security. Very often the blanket of secrecy covers extreme disorder.

The third preventive measure to ensure sufficient guarantees is a unilateral reduction of nuclear arms. According to Western estimates (which we quote so often!) the Soviet Army and Air Force have about 8,000 units of non-strategic nuclear warheads. Even if the USSR has a third of this number it should be cut several times, to become approximately 500 units. Reductions cannot be the main issue at negotiations (which will not begin, apparently). The time of talks and accounts has gone. Now the possessor himself will determine the ceiling, taking into consideration the amount which he can reliably keep under control.

Shoulder to Shoulder

Sharing the burden is a usual thing for NATO. Today it has cropped up in NATO's relations with the ex-enemy. The nuclear threat from the East cannot be neutralized by the classical "deterrence." It calls for partnership. Judging by their first visits, nothwithstanding their kind feelings towards Gorbachev, NATO leaders have come to the conclusion that the Russian Republic will be their only partner in nuclear talks.

Nuclear cooperation is most promising in the field of the latest technologies, not military, but accompanying. For some time now the United States has been informing us that it is ready to give assistance in the technical improvement of the control and communication system, to offer the latest R/D on preventing non-sanctioned use of nuclear weapons, and to cooperate in counteracting terrorism. We should respond to that immediately, without our usual sloth and our eternal fear lest our "nuclear secrets" get into enemy hands. Cooperation calls for more openness.

The unilateral reduction of nuclear wepaons can become a major trend of cooperation as well. The United States has been the first to take this road, and is ready, together with us, to proceed at a much quicker pace. Technological aid is also possible here, because an ecologically clean process of the destruction of nuclear warheads is required. For extraordinary situations the following way seems quite reasonable: Certain groups of nuclear warheads can be kept under international control right in Russia, until they are destroyed.

I should like to mention one more trend of cooperation. Russia will need nuclear status for decades, not for a year or two. Hence, it will not be able to do without nuclear testing. The Novaya Zemlya testing ground is notorious for its nuclear tests. Joint programmes of its updating together with the United States and France can at least partially lessen the anxiety of Northern Europe.

Responsibility for nuclear problems rests with the Russian government now. Meanwhile, energetic Russian leaders have very modest experience in this field. The standard of nuclear behavior have nothing to do with either resolutions passed in camera, or with inflammatory speeches. Clear-cut and well-considered policy is needed for the solid basis of Russia's nuclear status.

NATO Nuclear Planning Group Session Viewed

PM2410102391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Oct 91 Second Edition p 2

[Article by Major M. Zheglov: "NATO Bids Farewell to 80 Percent of Its Nuclear Arms"]

[Text] This month has beaten all records in the unique disarmament marathon. First the United States and the USSR competed in it, putting forward initiatives for the reduction of their tactical nuclear weapons arsenals. Then NATO joined them.

The jubilee, 50th, session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group has ended in the Sicilian city of Taormina. For such events it is the custom to present gifts to those celebrating the jubilee. But the alliance's defense ministers decided to avoid this tradition and gave a gift to everyone. This applies not only to us but also to the population of those West European countries on whose territory NATO tactical nuclear weapons are deployed. They will now be reduced by approximately 80 percent.

The defense ministers not only decided on a substantial reduction of nuclear aerial bombs, which, incidentally, did not generate any doubts seeing that the information leak came from the most reliable source—NATO headquarters—but also sent Lance missiles and nuclear artillery shells to be scrapped. This was also being talked about on the eve of the session by Western analysts, but with a certain amount of doubt.

Now, the concluding communique asserts, there remains in Europe "only a minimal level of nuclear arms necessary to maintain peace and stability" since "there are not sufficient conventional weapons systems to prevent war." Here too it was not so much fear of possible aggression from the East as concern in connection with the continuing proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world which most likely played a part. Indeed there is continued alarm over the effectiveness and efficiency of control over nuclear systems in the Soviet Union. It is no accident that the NATO defense ministers urged our country to take further steps aimed at removing this concern. One of these steps, in the experts' opinion voiced, incidentally, at the UN General Assembly, could be the formation of a single command for the USSR's strategic nuclear forces.

However that may be, in Taormina decisions were taken which naturally give rise to satisfaction. Moreover, they open up opportunities for cooperation in the further reduction of nuclear arms.

Deryabin Cited on Prague CSCE Session

LD2710143791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1024 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vitaliy Yaroshevskiy]

[Text] Prague, 25 Oct (TASS)—The routine session of the committee of senior officials of the CSCE has ended here. In the opinion of the head of the Soviet delegation, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Deryabin, the current session in Prague was an important stage in the preparations for the pan-European "Helsinki 2" summit meeting. We had an exchange of views on the future of the Helsinki process at the level of basic principles, the Soviet diplomat stressed in an interview with TASS. "In spite of the wide range of opinions, the delegations from the 38 countries set themselves a common goal in Prague: how to impart a new quality to the CSCE process. We are talking about reacting quickly to the changes taking place in Europe," Yu. Deryabin commented, "about how to turn the pan-European process into the main instrument for maintaining stability and security on the continent and for preventing and settling conflicts."

The head of the Soviet delegation emphasized that the proposals put forward by the delegations have not yet been put into their final form. "The three days of the Prague session have given us the chance to compare our positions," Yu. Deryabin said. "Whereas during the last 15 years the principles of cooperation which had developed were in keeping with the demands of the time and the even dynamics of the development of processes in Europe, we now need, without rejecting our past experience, to create new models, models for quick reaction. That is the USSR's position."

The Soviet diplomat noted especially that the principle of consensus, which has ensured the viability of the CSCE, can no longer operate in several present-day situations. He also touched upon a second important position held by the Soviet delegation. "Until now, the CSCE's decisions have taken the form of recommendations or, at best, political commitments," Yu. Deryabin stressed. "Now, we are raising the issue of giving accords within the framework of the pan-European process the status of international law, with appropriate supervisory mechanisms and guarantees."

Touching upon the Polish delegation's proposal to set up a CSCE peacekeeping force, Yu. Deryabin commented that this plan is related to the new quality of the Helsinki process. In the Soviet diplomat's opinion, it is an idea whose time has come. "But we need to overcome old approaches here," Yu. Deryabin said. "If we reach the common conclusion that the CSCE should be an instrument of stability and security, then it must have such a force at its disposal. But it is too early yet to talk about the practical implementation of that proposal."

Worldwide Issues

Preparations for Madrid Conference Begin

LD2710210291 Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Madrid October 27 TASS—The Middle East peace conference is due to begin its work in the Spanish capital on October 30 with the opening ceremony performed by Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR and George Bush of the United States.

The convocation of such a conference seemed highly implausible a short time ago—the prolonged conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbours left little hope for a meeting between representatives of the warring sides at the negotiating table.

However, thanks to efforts by the leaders of the two superpowers, Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush, to their close personal relations with King Juan Carlos of Spain and the readiness of Spaniards to facilitate the process of peace settlement in the Middle East, Madrid will become the venue of this truly historic conference.

The Spanish press notes in particular that Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush will hold their summit ahead of the conference. This will be their seventh meeting since George Bush too office as the U.S. President and the first since the two leaders put forth their radical initiatives in the field of strategic arms reduction.

Preparations are being finalized in the press centre to ensure efficient work of about 4,000 Spanish and foreign journalists, quite a few of whom covered the recent Persian Gulf war. Now these journalists will witness two events, which, according to observers, are due to mark a major step towards durable peace both in the Middle East and the world as a whole.

Unprecedented measures are being taken by Spanish authorities to ensure safety of the conference's co-chairmen, Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush, and other participants in the conference. About 4,000 Secret Service agents have been transferred to Madrid from provinces. The Spanish military will be on guard together with policemen.

The world public attention is now focused on the Spanish capital. People in many countries hope that talks in Madrid will eventually lead to the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

Gorbachev Interviewed on Peace

LD2710232691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2220 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 28 Oct (TASS)—Below follows the complete text of the answers of the USSR president to questions of the pan- Arab AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper:

One: Mikhail Sergeyevich! Permit us to ask the first question on a topic which is of particular concern to Arabs at present. To what extent does the Soviet leadership believe in a positive outcome to the Middle East peace conference? Do you feel that we, Arabs, may be certain of its success, and that it really will meet our vitally important interests?

Answer: Let us hope that a glimmer of hope has been discerned in the tortuous history of the Middle East. It goes without saying that complex territorial and other problems, contradictions which have piled up over the years, and the accumulated mistrust and suspicion continue to divide the participants in the Middle East conflict. But today we may state that we have achieved the first success. The main thing we see is that that the first step toward one another has been made, and that there is agreement to jointly seek solutions.

It would be rash to give guarantees as to the results of the talks. Much painstaking work which—of this we are certain—will also require bold political solutions and diplomatic mastery lies ahead. At the same time we are also certain that the negotiation process which is getting under way will in its own right create a qualitatively new atmosphere in the region and assist in gradually overcoming the psychological barriers and in understanding mutual concerns.

We proceed from the position that the conference participants will rest upon the principles of international legality, and this means the equality of the rights and security of all states and peoples—both of the Arabs and of Israel.

Without a doubt, a just and stable solution of the Palestinian problem should be found.

The Soviet Union, as cochairman of the peace conference, has also taken upon itself responsibility for the fruits of the peace process having no bitter aftertaste for anyone. To this end, acting jointly with the other cochairman, the United States, we are making all the necessary efforts.

Two: Mr. President! To many it seems that the Soviet Union is occupied with its own domestic problems, and will be unable to play an effective role in the international arena on a par with the United States, as before. To what extent is such a view justified?

Answer: Of course, our country is presently experiencing great difficulties, which are unavoidable at this stage of the large-scale, radical transformations that are being implemented in the USSR.

But debates on a reduction in our role in world politics contradict the facts—including the fact that our country is cochairman at this conference and called upon to resolve a problem of world significance.

Today, throughout the world, the new principles of relations between states are being gradually but not steadily affirmed—principles based on renunciation of

confrontation, on cooperation and reciprocation, priority of international lawfulness, and values common to mankind. The democratic transformation of our Union will naturally strengthen its role as a world power under these new conditions.

The geopolitical, economic, and historical realities are such that we will not close in on ourselves, even if this were something some people would like. We do not desire to copy anyone, and we will play our own role on the world arena, based on the nature of our multinational state, which belongs simultaneously to Europe and Asia, directly bordering on vast regions including the countries of the East.

Three: Many people say, Mikhail Sergeyevich, that the Soviet Union no longer exists. But here we see before us an energetic, vigorous, self-confident, and obviously extremely influential president of this Union. So what does it mean—perhaps the "many" are rushing into hasty conclusions? What kind of state do you represent, Mr. President; how do you see it in the future? Has your vision of your country changed since the failure of the State Committee for the State of Emergency's criminal venture?

Answer: I am ready to agree that the former Soviet Union is no more, nor will it ever be again. The main error of the organizers of the August putsch lies in their inability to grasp that fundamental fact of our life. Its failure just convinced me of the rightness of the path chosen by us, and of the irreverisiblity of the changes that have taken place already. There have been no less dramatic times in our thousand-year history than these.

It is not a matter of a new name for the state, but of the radical renewal of our whole country. It can be said that the new union—the union of sovereign states—is being born in torment. This is a difficult process, and we are to experience a great deal on the path to new statehood. I do not doubt our ultimate success.

No matter what trials lie ahead of us in the future, we can be sure of one thing—our union will remain a unique Eurasian power, the home of a multiplicity of peoples connected by a common economy, history, and culture, and by the fates of tens of millions of people.

I am sure that the world community has an interest in the formation of a strong new union also, as an important factor of international stability.

Obukhov Interviewed on Summit

OW2310174691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1613 GMT 23 Oct 91

["An exclusive interview with the USSR Deputy Foreign Minister A. Obukhov"—INTERFAX headline from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It would be quite natural to expect that the latest nuclear disarmament proposals will be on the agenda of the meeting President Gorbachev and President Bush will have in Madrid on October 29, the USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Alekse; Obukhov has told DP [Diplomatic Panorama].

The Soviet diplomat said both sides showed their intention to take reciprocal steps in that crucial sphere. It is quite significant that both the USSR and the USA have said they are ready to carry out disarmament without any linkage or preconditions, or sophisticated verification measures. However, this does not rule out the need for the exchange of information between the two countries.

Obukhov, who has dedicated himself entirely to nuclear disarmament and has already had the first round of consultations with his American counterpart Reginald Bartholomew, does not think that this summit is to be held at Moscow's initiative. He says that such meetings are arranged only by mutual agreement and without pressure from either side. Deputy Foreign Minister Obukhov will accompany President Gorbachev during his trip to Madrid.

About the contacts the US First Deputy Secretary of State has had in Moscow Obukhov said that they revealed the unanimity of both sides in their approaches to implementing the steps President Bush announced on September 27 and President Gorbachev on October 5.

One of the most important political results of the latest consultations is that they revealed no problems that would prevent either initiative from materializing.

Obukhov recalled that the talks with Mr. Bartholomew in Moscow were attended by representatives from Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus [Belorussia]—republics having nuclear arms in their territory. The USSR Deputy Foreign Minister believes there is nothing wrong about the fact that Russia's Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev has come out with more dramatic disarmament proposals than President Gorbachev. As a matter of fact, the leaders of the Russian Federation approved of the position of the Union authorities. That Russia has come out with more dramatic proposals only confirms that the USSR is determined to cut nuclear arms and foster security and trust.

Mr. Obukhov is certain that the control of Soviet nuclear arms must be unified. So should be the verification of arms reduction commitments. That would be in the interests of international security and stability and cause no harm to the sovereignty of former union republics.

The Soviet diplomat spoke highly of the position of other nuclear powers, Britain and France, which in the wake of President Bush's initiative said they would take unilateral steps towards nuclear disarmament, too. The Soviet deputy foreign minister described as a "sound policy building a solid basis for reciprocal steps" the recent decision by NATO's nuclear planning group to slash short- range nuclear arms.

About China Obukhov said that the Soviet Union wants all nuclear powers to join nuclear disarmament efforts. He said that the initiatives already announced by Washington and Moscow will be implemented without any linkage.

Obukhov said that there may be another round of Soviet-US nuclear disarmament consultations in the middle of next month, after the Madrid summit. The exact venue and date will be set later.

Commentary on Nuclear Breakthrough

LD2410182991 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Vladimir Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] In the past year, when the Soviet nuclear testing grounds kept silent and one of them, near Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, was closed the United States continued nuclear weapons tests in Nevada. All in all it has conducted seven nuclear tests in the intervening period.

Will the situation persist in the coming period when Moscow and Washington start abolishing thousands of warheads in keeping with the recently taken decisions? Will explosions in Nevada continue, now that the Soviet Union has introduced a one-year moratorium for all nuclear tests?

The Soviet and American Presidents will reportedly discuss banning nuclear tests at their meeting in Madrid next Tuesday [29 October]. In the current situation it is becoming even more urgent and the United States has a chance to show understanding of the Soviet stand and demonstrate it is prepared to meet the Soviet Union halfway in reducing nuclear arsenals. The American public also demands that the United States approach to nuclear tests be changed.

So the Greenpeace organization called on President Bush last Friday [25 October] to immediately stop all nuclear tests in response to the Soviet one year moratorium. In a statement the public organisation even claimed that the United States was testing the world's patience by refusing to follow suit.

But the main thing probably is that the need to stop nuclear tests is prompted by all recent developments. While taking farreaching steps to reduce their nuclear arsenals the Soviet Union and the United States can hardly be interested to preserve [word indistinct] to perfect their nuclear weapons. Abolishing of nuclear artillery shells and nuclear mines and air bombs would be meaningless if they were expected to be replaced by new even more sophisticated nuclear weapons.

Lately the progress of nuclear disarmament is developing rapidly. Last month, President George Bush advanced his well-known initiative that soon was reciprocated by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The NEWSWEEK says, quoting a high-ranking American official, that the United States is preparing a new radical proposal on reducing nuclear arsenals including restrictions of nuclear tests. No doubt such initiative just before the two Presidents' meeting in Madrid would be a step forward.

But there's a more challenging problem: to make all nuclear testing grounds keep silent forever.

G-7 Representatives Meet Republic Delegates

LD2710122791 Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 27 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Igor Peskor]

[Text] Moscow October 27 TASS—Representatives of the financial agencies of the Group of Seven [G-7] countries intend to find out the real state of the Soviet economy and first of all its monetary position during their meeting with the heads of government and chief delegates of 12 independent republics.

The meeting, which opened here today, is being held within the framework of the accords reached between the Soviet delegation and G-7 representatives in Bangkok at the annual conference of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The discussion of problems connected with the repayment of credits granted to the Soviet Union and specifically of how the Soviet Union will repay the debts—through the joint efforts of republics or each republic will do that separately—is expected to be one of the main subjects at the meeting.

The sides will possibly try to coordinate their opinions about deferment of the repayment of the Soviet Union's foreign debts and the granting of credits to it on the security of gold.

On the whole, the consultations that have begun here are an endeavour comprehensively to discuss issues concerning full-scale Western aid to the Soviet Union and map out practical steps along the way.

In his opening remarks, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee on Day-to-Day Economic Management, pointed out that the meeting "is an illustration of historic, global character of changes taking place in the world and in republics that are the inheritors of the USSR".

"The meeting signifies a transition of cooperation between republics and the world's leading industrial democracies to the next stage of development. This is a fundamentally new phase of the integration of our economy into the world economic system," Yavlinskiy emphasised.

Participants of the meeting will hold two rounds of talks today.

Silayev Discusses Foreign Debt

LD2810091891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0834 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Oct (TASS)—The G-7 delegation which is in Moscow, having arrived to discuss issues concerning the USSR foreign debt, held the first round of talks with Ivan Silayev. The most difficult problem of this discussion, which will occupy all of today, in the opinion of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy head, is the fact that among the 12 republics there is no unanimous opinion on the nature of their participation in the debt payment.

In Silayev's opinion, the main condition of the finance ministers of the seven Western countries is quite categorical: If the republics adopt a decision on "breaking up the debt," that is, "distribute the payment among various apartments," the West cannot fully guarantee the payment of credits to pay for the USSR foreign debt. So far, only a third of the 12 republics has agreed with the formula of "collective responsibility" [solidarnoy otvetstvennosti], advanced by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and placed at the foundation of the agreement being prepared between states who were signatories of the economic community treaty. The objective of the talks is to convince the other republics of the unreality of their intention to independently settle their foreign debts.

Yavlinskiy Meeting Reported

LD2810111291 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Report by correspondent Andrey Pishchayev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting between the financial experts of the G-7 and the leaders of 12 of the republics of the Union, excluding the Baltic republics, took place in Moscow today. In his report from this meeting, our correspondent recalled the saying that repaying one's debts is fine, but if the worst comes to the worst, then so, too, is rescheduling them, if, of course, you are counting on a new loan.

[Pishchayev] At their meeting in Bangkok with the Yavlinskiy delegation, which was held behind closed doors, representatives of the seven industrially developed countries expressed their willingness to give economic assistance to the Soviet Union. But even then the West was worried by the political instability in the country and the Yavlinskiy delegation was unable to assess the USSR's need for Western financial injections with absolute precision.

Since then there has been no improvement in our position, while the debt is getting close to $70 billion. Nevertheless, one can count on getting fresh credits, but on condition: The West intends to deal with just one partner, meaning the Union, rather than with each republic individually. Furthermore, we are being required to recognize all old and new external debts and to provide a convincing demonstration of our credit worthiness. If it proves possible to reach agreement the money from the West will go on the purchase of foodstuffs and medicines.

So the position of the seven Western countries is clear. But what about the republics? It turns out that they are all ready to share collective responsibility for the country's debts, Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee. But it is not clear how this responsibility will lie upon each individual republic. The Ukraine and Russia, for example, are willing to pay their own share of the external debt themselves.

[Begin recording] [Ukrainian Prime Minister Fokin] I believe that we will have to postpone a final resolution of this question until a meeting in Kiev.

[Silayev] Of course it would be possible to do it in Kiev, but it is true that the Ukraine is not yet a member of the economic community so the members of the community will no doubt decide where it would be most convenient for them to meet to discuss these issues. [end recording]

[Pishchayev] What he is referring to, of course, is the conomic community of the eight republics of the country. Silayev added that contentious issues will be discussed at the 4 November meeting of the State Council. It is difficult to say whether or not the representatives of the eight Western countries have been able to sort out for themselves our internal contradictions—and that was the purpose of the meeting.

Expert Opposes Moratorium on Foreign Debt

OW2810095191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0803 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Reports by Diplomatic Panorama's M. Mayorov and I. Porshev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature for "October 25, 1991"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "If the USSR imposes a moratorium on the repayments of foreign debt, it will be a suicide," says a USSR Foreign Ministry economics expert who lately participated in a session of the IMF and the World Bank in Bangkok. According to him, the USSR's foreign debt is now around $70 billion.

On October 27 G-7 deputy finance ministers will meet in Moscow with the leaders of the 12 former Union republics to discuss the USSR's ability to repay its debt. If the USSR decides on the moratorium, the situation, the expert claimed, "will remind that of 1917 when Russia repudiated the tsar's debts. It is quite a different thing that the West could relieve the burden of the Soviet foreign debt to broaden our opportunities to buy food abroad."

The expert described the allegations that the USSR may be ready to impose a moratorium as "ungrounded

rumours". "We do have little money, but if we decide on a moratorium, we'll have none at all because no one will give us a single credit," said he.

Officials on Reported Outstanding UN Dues

OW2510182691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USSR owes nothing to the UN in respect of the latter's regular budget, said an executive of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Department for International Organizations. He told IF [INTERFAX] that in 1991 the due of the Soviet Union, the Ukraine and Belorussia stood at 106.6 million dollars.

In the summer, half of the sum was paid, which means that in fact there is no debt in relation to the regular budget. And yet, it would be wrong to assert that the USSR owes nothing at all to the UN.

The diplomat said that Moscow's debt in respect of "special accounts" totals 75 million dollars. What is meant here is spending on the operations of the UN peace-keeping force to which the Soviet Union did not contribute for ideological reasons, including the UN forces' operations in the Congo and in the Middle East. This debt was expected to be paid before the end of 1991. However, financial problems, particularly a shortage of hard currency, has indefinitely put off the payment of the debt.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry intends to ask the Ministry of Finances or even President Gorbachev to accelerate the payment of the debt.

Official Interviewed on Arrears

OW2810094291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0803 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Reports by Diplomatic Panorama's M. Mayorov and I. Porshev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature for "October 25, 1991"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USSR has no arrears on the UN regular budget, said a senior official of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organisations. He said in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] that in 1991 the Soviet Union's, the Ukraine's and Belorus' [Belorussia] combined contributions to the UN budget amounted to $106.6 million. Last summer half this amount was paid, which technically means that the USSR is not in arrears to the UN regular budget.

According to the diplomat, the USSR's contribution to the 1992 UN budget will be slightly diminished because the ex-Soviet Baltic republics, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, acquired statehood and became full-fledged members of the international community. Now they must submit their statistics to the UN to have their contributions calculated. The diplomat reminded that the USSR national income, which is used to calculate the size of a nation's contribution to the UN budget, was until recently determined with an account of the three non-independent Baltic states.

Yet it would be wrong to claim that the USSR has no debts to pay to the UN. Thus, Moscow's arrears on "special accounts" amount to $75 million, that is, expenditures on the maintenance of UN peace-keeping forces the USSR did not cover in the past due to ideological considerations. Among them are, for example, UN troop operations in Congo and in the Middle East. There were plans to repay this debt before the end of 1991, but because of financial problems, including a shortage of hard currency, repayment must be postponed for an indeterminate period of time.

The USSR Foreign Ministry staffer expressed the opinion that the repayment schedule would be set in November and December. According to him, Moscow's debt is not very high, in particular as Washington is several million dollars in arrears. However, the USSR Foreign Ministry plans to appeal to the Finance Ministry or possibly the Soviet President Gorbachev himself to have the repayment of the arrears speeded up.

Petrovskiy Remarks on Republics' UN Membership

LD2710200491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0530 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Excerpt] New York 25 October (TASS)—[Passage omitted] Answering a TASS question about the possibility of Soviet republics becoming part of the United Nations, as well as on the union's position in the organization in such a case, First Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy said: "A common understanding has been reached among the republics that the union must keep its place in the Security Council. If the republics become members of the United Nations, they will be represented at the General Assembly. The republics' right to participate in international organizations comes from the constitutional provisions of the USSR. There is also the international reality one must not forget. The approach of the Union and of the republics to the question of UN membership has not yet been met with sufficient understanding from either the United Nations or its members. For now everyone firmly insists that the UN Charter is immutable."

With the kind of membership that the republics and the Union are proposing, a precedent might be created, as a result of which the European Community may, for example, also wish to become a permanent member of the Security Council. A question arises then: Will it be at the UK or France's expense? There will also be other countries or groups of countries that might want to become permanent members of the Security Council.

V.F. Petrovskiy agreed with this assessment by many UN diplomats, acknowledging that such a development of events is not suitable to many people. Therefore the republics are presently being actively involved in the

work of international organizations through participation in the union delegation. This is the present situation. The first deputy USSR foreign minister pointed out that the comprehension of this on the part of the republics is enhanced by experience in participating in the work of the United Nations and its bodies.

Today V.F. Petrovskiy leaves for Washington to hold meetings with top-level representatives of the U.S. Administration.

Petrovskiy Meets Perez de Cuellar

LD2710194791 Moscow TASS in English 0944 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Text] New York 25 October TASS— Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy met UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar on Thursday [24 October] and raised the problem of the release of Soviet prisoners of war in Afghanistan in connection with prospects of the settlement of the situation in that country. The UN secretary general promised to use his authority to resolve this extremely important humanitarian problem, Petrovskiy told TASS.

He said he had told Perez de Cuellar the USSR intended to support his candidature if he planned to stand for reelection as UN secretary general. Perez de Cuellar thanked the USSR for the high appreciation of his work. He had stated on more than one occasion that he was not going to run for the position again.

According to Petrovskiy, a complicated process of choosing candidates for the post of UN secretary general is continuing. As the United Nations organisation is entering a period of renovation, one should approach the problem most seriously and with a sense of responsibility. Now there are 14 names on the list of candidates forthis post. Petrovskiy does not rule out the possibility of more names being added to it.

A new world order is taking shape in which the UN should play the key part as the main international forum of joint actions of states. In these conditions the UN secretary general will play a crucial role. In the future the UN will not only engage in crisis diplomacy, but also prevent conflicts. This should be the objective of the efforts of the United Nations organisation and its secretary general, Petrovskiy believes.

He also met the chairman of the 46th General Assembly session Samir Shihabi when they discussed the main directions of the forthcoming reform of the United Nations organisation and its secretariat. It is obvious that the reform of such a complex structure cannot be carried out in one go. A long and complicated process lies ahead, Petrovskiy stressed.

United States & Canada

Further Reportage on Petrovskiy's U.S. Visit

LD2610214491 Moscow TASS in English 2119 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington October 26 TASS—First Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR Vladimir Petrovskiy, who arrived in Washington from New York on Friday [25 October], met U.S. presidential aide on national security Brent Skowcroft and had talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Affairs Arnold Canter. The talks were attended by the Soviet Ambassador to the U.S. Victor Komplektov.

Describing the meetings and talks with the U.S officials, Petrovskiy told TASS that they discussed further deepening the dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States at an intergovernment level, particularly focusing on stategic stability, which was brought to the limelight by the latest initiatives of Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev to cut stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

The sides reached understanding to the effect that strategic stability becomes especially important in a rapidly changing international situation. That is why understanding between the two major nuclear powers—the U.S. and the USSR—in their assessment of the current world events and prospects for stable development of international relations is so significant.

Petrovskiy also met U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Bilton to discuss problems dealing with the 46th session of the U.N. General Assembly, and UNESCO General Conference held in Paris. They also discussed the U.N. entering a period of reformation. A high degree of understanding was reached on these problems, as well as on other cardinal issues of building strategic stability.

Relations between the Soviet Union and the United States will continue to be important in forming new world order. These relations are becoming an integral part of the new system of peace, security and cooperation, relying on U.N. authority and powers.

Today, as never before, American-Soviet partner relations are important not only for the people of these countries, but for the whole of interdependent world. We welcome a responsible political dialogue on all levels, Petrovskiy said.

Deputy Foreign Minister, U.S. Official Meet

LD2510164191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1417 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—According to the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Nikolayenko has received U.S. Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Richard Kauzlarich at the latter's request. There was a detailed exchange of views on topical issues in Soviet-U.S. relations, bearing in mind the stance of the sovereign republics, and also on a number of regional problems.

Yakovlev To Head Global Stability Team Talks

LD2610090391 Moscow TASS in English 0846 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Aleksandr Yakovlev, a member of the Soviet Presidential Political Council, will head a new team of Soviet experts at U.S.-Soviet negotiations on global stability, today's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper said.

It stressed the decision is an "outward reflection of Moscow's re-assessment of its policy with the United States and the West as a whole".

The first round of talks is expected to begin in Washington in the middle of November.

"The talks will focus not only on military aspects of stability, but also on 'conceptual and free' exchange of views and information on international issues," the newspaper said.

It says the move aims to "materialise partnership" between the Soviet Union and the United States to coordinate their foreign policies.

Talks With U.S. Defense Department Previewed

LD2810114891 Moscow TASS in English 1042 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[Text] Washington October 28 TASS—Issues concerning Soviet defence industry conversion and U.S. possible assistance in this respect will be the main subject of discussion at the forthcoming talks between Soviet and U.S. representatives this week.

A U.S. Defence Department delegation led by Donald Atwood, U.S. undersecretary of defence, left Washington for Moscow late on Sunday [27 October] night.

For eight days the delegation, which also includes, along with Pentagon officials, seven leaders of U.S. military corporations, among them Lawrence Clark, vice-president of the Boeing, will have meetings with representatives of the central leadership and individual republics and will tour defence plants in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kiev.

In accordance with an arrangement made, the visit was to be made earlier but was postponed in view of the August coup in Moscow, a Pentagon official spokesman said.

It has also been announced that after visiting the Soviet Union Atwood will make a stop-over in Brussels to brief NATO representatives on the results of his visit.

Bush Notes Intelligence Community's Needs

PM2510154391 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "CIA After Victory Over Communism"]

[Text] "Success in the fight against Communism does not mean that the CIA's work is over," U.S. President George Bush said at a dinner in honor of veterans of the Office of Strategic Services—the forerunner of the CIA. "We have no intention of eliminating our intelligence capabilities, into whose creation we have put so much effort. However, we must adapt them to the new realities."

President Bush, who headed the CIA in the mid-1970's, noted that the intelligence community of tomorrow will be faced with the task of reinforcing and broadening the gains of democracy. Intelligence will have to combat terrorism and drugs. "What is more, intelligence will help our politicians to gain a better understanding of economic opportunities and challenges. It will help bar the way to anyone who attempts to steal our technology or refuses to play by the rules of competition. It will help us in our quest for peace and in conflicts and regions where tension prevails." The U.S. President reckons that one of the most pressing tasks for the intelligence community of tomorrow is to "stop the spread of mass-destruction weapons—biological, chemical, and nuclear arms and ballistic missiles."

Official on Joint Transsiberian Express Venture

LD2610075691 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0000 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Transsiberian Express Service Incorporated is a Soviet-American joint venture that undertakes to improve the world's longest railroad. Radio Moscow's Vladimir Sinedubskiy has the details. [passage omitted]

The new joint venture expects to equip the Transsiberian Railroad with up-to-date engines and freight cars and fit it with telecommunications systems. The founders are the government-run company Sovetskiye Zheleznye Dorogi [Soviet Railways] and the American transportation company Sea-Land Service Incorporated.

Deputy Soviet Minister of Railways Valeriy Butko says the two partners will enjoy equal opportunities. He says the Soviet Railways meet more than one-half of the global rail freight turnover and it will provide railroad terminals, maintenance and repair facilities, telephone, telefax and telex communications. Any client will be able to receive full information about the cargo and its whereabouts. Sea-Land, on its part, will supply up-to-date technology and equipment and modernize

machinery. All this will enable the joint venture to sell transportation services on the world market. [passage omitted]

U.S. Reconsiders Technology Exchange Policy

LD2810101791 Moscow TASS in English 1000 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Alexey Berezhkov]

[Text] Washington October 28 TASS—The United States is reconsidering its present policy of a complete ban on buying Soviet space systems and exporting American space technology to the USSR, writes "SPACE NEWS" newspaper in its latest issue, referring to official representatives of the US State Department and the Defence Ministry.

A special interdepartmental group attached to the US National Security Council is now elaborating proposals to change the administration's policy in this field. The group was created after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev presented a document to President George Bush during the Moscow summit proposing a new trade in space technology, the newspaper writes.

According to representatives of the American administration, the interdepartmental group is now formulating an answer to Gorbachev's proposals and which might be the first step towards major changes in America's approach to importing Soviet space systems.

Richard Truly, director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, called for a cautious approach to possible changes in American policy in this matter.

"SPACE NEWS" points out the USA has a "very influential and effectual industrial lobby which is able to delay and block any changes in America's approach towards the Soviet Union which is regarded as a threat to the American aerospace industry".

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Radio Commentary Queries Khmer Rouge Intentions

BK2610133791 Moscow Radio Moscow in Cambodian 1230 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Commentary by station observer Viktor Valentinov]

[Text] The Cambodian peace pact, which was signed against great expectations, has hardly provoked astounding reactions. Along with unconditional endorsement of the Paris accord, however, articles voicing anxiety and apprehension have also been found frequently in newspapers around the world. These worries are legitimate: After the end of the war, how will the Khmer Rouge behave in Cambodia? Our observer, Viktor Valentinov, wishes to make the following comments:

The apprehensions are justified because [words indistinct] the Khmer Rouge's statements and activities have truly caused great concern. What kind of attitude will the listeners adopt when faced with the following situation? An agreement on the repatriation of the Cambodian refugees currently taking refuge in Thailand has already been reached at the negotiating table, and it has already been signed by all the participating parties. Under its terms, the refugees are to be repatriated only by their free will, meaning the refugees have the freedom to choose whether they return to their native villages or elsewhere. Conversely, the Khmer Rouge have forced refugees back into areas under their control in Cambodia.

Everyone knows that power will be gradually transferred from the current Phnom Penh Government to a not-yet-created national unity government—this has been stipulated in the accord—because, for the time being, no UN transitional authority or administrative organ under the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia has been established. That being the case, if the existing administration is dissolved, the country will certainly be placed in limbo and confusion, won't it? The Polpotist radios on 22 October—one day before the signing of the Paris accord—launched an appeal calling on the Cambodian people to struggle to dismantle the present ruling state authority. As such, I do not think that the Khmer Rouge leadership dares take the risk of adopting a stance which challenges the other parties involved in the settlement, but will sabotage the process of restoring peace no matter what. This is the truth.

For over 20 years in Cambodia, the Cambodians have played so-called offbeat games, meaning that each faction has always relied on itself and its armed forces, and the Paris accord cannot settle everything. The accord has been accorded value, however, as it has introduced the rules of the game. Will the Polpotist group abide by the chosen method? This is the main question that has been raised throughout the world, and, when people pose this question—whether or not they want to—they always recall the tragedy of Cambodia's history, which is linked to the bloody Polpotist group, under whose rule 1 to 3 million Cambodian people died.

I do not believe this drama can recur, but, to make sure that it does not, the tragic experience should not be forgotten, Valentinov concluded.

Near East & South Asia

Soviet Role in Mideast Peace Process Viewed

PM2810105191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 91 Union Edition p 6

[Special correspondent A. Ostalskiy article: "Eyewitness Notes Made on Board the Government Aircraft Which Took the Soviet Foreign Minister Around the Near East"]

[Text] Jerusalem-Damascus-Amman-Cairo-Paris—It is unlikely that any eyewitness will ever forget the way U.S. Secretary of State James Baker began the historic joint press conference with Boris Pankin in Jerusalem. Sallow-faced, having hardly slept over the previous 48 hours, he unperturbably read out the text of the U.S.-Soviet statement on the convening of the international peace conference on the Near East.

It was, as a matter of fact, for the sake of this moment that James Baker traveled around the world over the last year, honoring the promise made by President Bush when the war in the Persian Gulf ended: to try and accomplish something that entire generations of politicians and diplomats had found impossible—to break the vicious circle of the Near East conflict. I am not going to repeat the diverse assertions about the role played in this miracle by our own country and the changes that have occurred in it, even though I gained a clearer perception of that role thanks to an opportunity to take a look, out of the corner of my eye, behind the scenes of our Near East policy. Be that as it may, it would be unfair not to begin my narrative of last week's events in the Near East with the U.S. secretary of state: There is no doubt that he had done more than anyone else to bring these events about. Baker made eight trips—and what trips!—in this difficult region, and it looks as if his hour of triumph has arrived.

But the triumph was clearly noticeable for just one brief moment when the secretary of state named the venue for the peace conference. Having paused very briefly, he uttered the words "...in Madrid" and almost imperceptibly smiled in response to the sounds of amazement in the audience.

It is still not quite clear why the Americans kept the conference venue such a closely guarded secret. Confidential conversations with some members of the Soviet delegation left me with the impression that Boris Pankin was just about the only person on our side who knew about it. The rest heard the word "Madrid" only at the press conference or, at best, just a few minutes beforehand. In addition to this, according to reports from informed sources, a special group for advance preparations for the conference has already spent more than two weeks in the Spanish capital but not even the U.S. Embassy in Spain had any inkling about it.

Security considerations are one of the more obvious reasons behind such secrecy (although evidently not the only one). Some while ago the secretary of state received intelligence reports on the possibility of terrorist acts by the numerous opponents of reconciliation [primireniye] in the Near East, and possibly decided not to make the terrorists' tasks any easier. According to other reports, work was being done on other reserve options that the Americans did not wish to mention beforehand but, judging by everything, Lausanne—which was confidently predicted as the venue by Western newspapers—was nothing but camouflage.

It is impossible to dispute the fact that the initiative in this diplomatic operation belonged to the United States. This was primarily its own starring performance, while the role assigned to us was important but certainly not the lead. This is why some people on our "team" found a symbolic meaning in the ridiculous fact that we were issued baggage labels reading: "Member of the Official U.S. Delegation." "There are no others," we were told.

But this is no time for petty grievances. After all, back in the past we were not too worried about "primacy" in the endless and mutual annoyances of the cold war. It would hardly make any sense now to stand in opposition to common sense simply to avoid giving anyone the excuse to accuse us of "trailing along in the Americans' wake."

As a matter of fact, America did not just "allow" us to participate in the settlement process, it actively strove to achieve this. Why? Simply because today the United States needs to involve us in the emerging new world structures rather than keeping us outside: This is the approach that is best in line with U.S. interests, as well as with ours, at least in my opinion. In this specific case, a settlement without the USSR would be even harder to achieve than a settlement with our participation.

Here we have a paradox: The Arabs accept our central role in the peace process because they still trust us more than the Americans, but Israel also accepts it. And not just "in payment" for the establishment of full diplomatic relations. No, we are talking about far more serious and long-term factors. After all, if matters were to come to actual military-political compromises, the USSR will simply be vitally necessary as one of the guarantors of Israeli security. Here is another aspect mentioned by observers: Never before has any U.S. administration been accepted by the Arabs as positively as George Bush's administration. Now is also the first time ever that a Soviet Government is not perceived by the other side, Israel, as an implacable adversary. This alone opens up completely new opportunities in the Near East.

Boris Pankin had never had to properly deal with this unimaginably difficult region, but he did so on the day after his appointment as minister. However, the time for his proper test in this regard has only now arrived. No, the Soviet foreign minister certainly did not play an extra's role in the Near East. His share was probably somewhat lighter than Baker's, but his tour of Israel, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt—four countries in less than five days—can in no way be described as a tourist trip. The really tense talks he held in Jerusalem "on three fronts" at once—with the Israelis, the Palestinians, and the Americans, when the fate of the conference hung by a thread until the very last moment—were followed by equally tough diplomatic "duels" in Damascus, Amman, and Cairo. How to reconcile the irreconcilables? How to help the sides overcome long-established suspicions, mistrust, and enmity? For example, how to reconcile Syria's perfectly understandable desire to regain the Golan Heights it lost in 1967 with the stance taken by

Israel, which assumes that these heights are absolutely necessary from the security viewpoint? After all, Tel Aviv could be shelled from there. Or, how to bring to terms the Palestinians' right to self-determination with the realities of a country that can be crossed lengthways and breadthways by car in a single day, and where it is really hard to imagine the safe existence of two mutually hostile states.

Jordan's position cannot be described as simple, either: It finds itself between Scylla and Charybdis—between the Palestinians and Israel—and has, furthermore, skillfully managed to combine its traditional pro-West orientation with close ties of alliance with Saddam Husayn. The Egyptians also have their own specific problems. They oppose the Baghdad regime and established peace and diplomatic relations with Israel a long time ago but, just like the other Arab countries, are still not ready to agree with Israel on the most important and fundamental problems of settlement.

This is the most confusing puzzle that Boris Pankin had to solve during this trip. Of course, it proved impossible to solve it completely, but it seems that he never lost his self-control and persistently and patiently promoted progress toward the conference. And on each succeeding occasion he was increasingly confident and increasingly precise in his replies to journalists' tricky questions. It is, of course, early to say whether our new foreign minister is a success. It does seem, however, that he is a master of one skill that is most important for someone in his position and is not all that widely practised—the ability to learn fast.

Very little time has been allotted for learning: The leaders of the two superpowers' foreign policy departments have already had to perform what Pankin described as "surgery without anesthetic"—the beliefs that are collapsing are so deep-rooted as to cause physical suffering.

Moreover this applies not only to the Near East itself but also to the ideas about it. Many people will probably be amazed to learn, for example, that people considering themselves to be "true Zionists" are advocating reconciliation with the Arabs, while the radicals who are unwilling to even listen to such ideas are considered revisionists and renegades in classical Zionism. On the other hand, some extremely religious Israelis like Rabbi Moshe Hirsch are now asking to join the Palestinian delegation to the conference, and it can only be hoped that this will not happen because these figures—like Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Saddam Husayn (but for completely different reasons)—altogether refuse to accept Israel's right to exist as a state. To put it briefly, it is possible for all "moderates" to create a united front against all the radicals who are wittingly or unwittingly acting together.

Given support from the USSR, the United States, Europe, and the United Nations, the moderates will be given their first chance to prevail in Madrid, which will mean making not only their own region but also the entire world a safer place. Actually, there are no grounds for euphoria: Whereas the work hitherto involved "surgery without anesthetic," the future will involve unprecedented "microsurgrey," whose results cannot be guaranteed by anyone as yet.

Nonetheless, the main collapse of stereotypes actually involves the superpowers' role in the Near East. These sharp changes force many people to believe that the USSR now finds itself in a "weaker position" and—or so they claim—all changes are due to this. Boris Pankin dislikes being asked about this. And he is perfectly justified and convincing in replying that Moscow is now actually acting from strong positions. But our strength now lies elsewhere—in the fact that we no longer apply double standards and no longer have "favorites." We are trying to act in our own state interests, logically holding that they are inseparably linked with the interests and security of all mankind.

It seems to me, however, that the minister gets slightly annoyed because this question does contain a certain proportion of truth. Unfortunately, we had to become weaker in order to get wiser. Alas, the harsh question—Whom does this Pankin ultimately represent?—is to a certain extent justified. But the minister is profoundly correct when he speaks of the world's sincere respect for our new foreign policy, which is really and effectively helping to solve the most burning issues. After all, who knows, our country's future may, in its own turn, also depend on the situation in the world and, by no means last, on the situation in the Near East.

GCC States Welcome Madrid Peace Conference

LD2810090591 Moscow TASS in English 0853 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By correspondent Oleg Zuyenko]

[Text] Cairo October 28 TASS—The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member-states welcome the convocation of a Middle East peace conference in Madrid and are profoundly thankful for efforts towards a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and a solution to the Palestinian problem on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Egyptian gazette reports from a statement circulated in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, after a GCC foreign ministers' meeting held there on Sunday [27 October].

The GCC secretary-general points out in the statement that he will attend the conference as an observer while representatives of GCC countries will be present in general multilateral discussions.

Hard-Line Israeli Stance Expected at Talks

PM2510134191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 4

[By V. Lashkul: "Will the Madrid Forum Be Crowned With Success?"]

[Text] The White House has announced that all the states invited to send their representatives to the Madrid Conference on a Near East settlement have agreed to participate in this forum. Its organizers are the United States and the Soviet Union. Syria, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the Lebanon, and the Palestinians—as part of a joint Jordan-Palestinian delegation—will take part in the conference's work. American Secretary of State James Baker expressed a hope for the upcoming forum's success. However, in doing this he noted: "It should not be forgotten that we are dealing with the Near East, where nothing is obvious."

This reservation was no slip of the tongue. In the week before the start of the conference, the world community witnessed a few surprises. From Jerusalem came the announcement that the Israeli delegation traveling to Spain will not be led by the head of the foreign policy department as expected but by the prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir. Such a switch leads one to conclude that the Israeli leaders intend to display a more hard-line course in the monologue [as published] with the Arabs than could have been expected from Foreign Minister David Levi.

Y. Shamir's intention to lead the delegation at the Madrid meeting prompted, as Israeli television admits, a "serious crisis of confidence" between him and the leader of the foreign policy department. According to information from AFP, "the extreme right-wing Israeli parties put tremendous pressure on the head of the government to lead the Israeli delegation at the talks in Madrid himself." Incidentally, the leader of the Moledet Party, who advocates expelling all Palestinians beyond the borders of the occupied Arab lands, officially congratulated Shamir on the decision to lead the Israeli delegation himself.

Neither has the question of where to hold bilateral contacts between the Israelis and Arab representatives—which are due to begin four days after the 30 October opening of the Madrid Forum—been settled. Y. Shamir demands that they take place in the Near East. A number of Arab countries, including Syria, object to this.

In the Syrian capital, Damascus, an inter-Arab conference has opened, assembling high-ranking representatives from the five sides involved in the conflict with Israel—foreign ministers from Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, as well as envoys from the Lebanon and the political department of the PLO. Participants in the inter-Arab consultations were joined by the heads of the Moroccan and Saudi Arabian Foreign Policy Departments, speaking for the Arab Maghreb Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council respectively. Behind closed doors they are discussing questions of coordinating Arab positions at the Near East peace conference.

Moscow Arabic Views Madrid Peace Conference

LD2710123691 Moscow Radio Moscow in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Commentary by Aleksandr Grasnov: "The Middle East Peace Formula"]

[Text] As they are preparing to travel to Madrid to open the Middle East Peace Conference, Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush said that, in their views, the main objective of the conference was the reaching of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

This formula for the settlement, it must be said, is considered by the majority of world countries, including the Arabs, to be the only possible formula for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I wish to say that the three criteria for settlement are interlinked; consequently, failure to realize any one of them will negate the possibility of peace in the Middle East. Thus, the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict must be a just one and must be based on international law, which enjoys the recognition of all.

But can there be a just peace if it consolidates the occupation of the lands of the others by force? The answer, I believe, is evident: the Arab parties in the conflict will naturally try to secure Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied by aggression and continues to keep until this day. If this withdrawal fails to materialize, then there will be no peace.

It is known that Israel wants the Arabs to recognize its right to exist within secure borders. The international rights experts believe that protected and secure borders are firstly and foremostly peaceful borders with neighbors who have no reason for aggression on it.

But it is naive to think that Israel will be able to guarantee the security of its borders by expanding its territory at the expense of the others.

It is evident that legitimate international borders, which enjoy recognition, particularly by those abutting both sides of them, are the only borders that can truly be secure.

At the same time, a question springs to mind: Can peace in the Middle East be a just one if some of the Arab countries continue to reject Israel's right to exist within internationally recognized borders? Thus, peace cannot be just until the interests and rights of all parties to the conflict are taken into consideration.

If the settlement of the conflict fails to be comprehensive, then it will not be just. In other words, no problem arising from the Arab-Israeli conflict should remain unsolved. Otherwise, the roots of the conflict will remain. They will remain even if one of the parties to the

conflict is excluded from direct participation in the settlement from beginning to the end.

By this I mean Israel's attempts to confine participation in the conference to those representatives of the Palestinian people who were made destitute in many countries as a result of the conflict, as well as Israel's desire to exclude the question of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the setting up of their state from the agenda of the conference and from the bilateral talks.

Incidentally, we must say that such attempts to some extent enjoy the support of official Washington. President Bush himself has repeatedly said that he does not support the creation of a Palestinian Arab State. This position does not agree at all with the objective declared by Washington for the Madrid Conference, which is a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Nonrecognition of the Palestinian people's right to establish their own state cannot be considered just, and consequently the settlement cannot be comprehensive.

I can fully understand that all parties to the conflict try before the opening of the Madrid Conference to show rigidity in their positions in order to later have a wide scope for maneuvering and an opportunity to gain mutual concessions.

However, one cannot but agree with the opinion expressed by the influential London paper THE OBSERVER recently, which said that entering negotiations with the intention of thwarting them, which the enemies of Israel accuse it of doing, will not only mean the loss of the opportunity for the present generations that live in the region, but also sow additional seeds for violence and instability for scores of years to come.

Prospects for Mideast Peace Questioned

92UF0096A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Oct 91 p 4

[Article by Vladimir Belyakov in the column "Correspondents Comment": "The Conference Will Be Held. Will Peace Be Brought About?"]

[Text] Cairo—On 30 October an international peace conference on the Middle East will open in Madrid. Secretary of State J. Baker announced this on 25 October in Jerusalem in the presence of USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Pankin. An eight-month marathon of American diplomacy has come to an end. It succeeded in talking all participants in the Arab-Israeli conflict into sitting down at the negotiating table.

In all fairness we should say that, after a certain pause caused by separate Egyptian-Israeli negotiations in the late 1970's, the Soviet Union was the first to state the concept of an international peace conference. It was voiced in the summary report to the 26th CPSU Congress in 1981. The Arab world responded to this concept approvingly, whereas Israel rejected it. At the time, the United States did not support our proposal either. This time, Washington intercepted a Soviet initiative and succeeded at it.

What has changed in the past 10 years? If we look at the Middle East alone, very little. Perhaps only two new factors have appeared in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The intifadah, an uprising of the Palestinian people on lands occupied by Israel, is the first factor. The sharp increase in immigration to Israel, mainly from the Soviet Union, is the second factor. However, they were clearly not the factors to give an impetus to American diplomacy.

The main change is in the international context of the Middle East conflict. The Soviet Union has ceased being a second superpower. "The disappearing Soviet influence undermined Arab resistance to U.S. plans and paved the way for Baker," writes the British journal MIDDLE EAST, which specializes in Middle East issues. There is no reason to delude ourselves concerning the fact that the Americans magnanimously suggested that we become cosponsors of the conference. The role of the Soviet Union at the conference will be purely symbolic. Besides, the Union in its old form exists no more...

The very concept of the conference has undergone a radical change in the American interpretation. The conference participants will gather together for just three days... and will not decide anything. However, after this, direct bilateral negotiations between the interested countries will begin, during which solutions for settling the conflict will be developed.

Undoubtedly, the agreement of the parties to begin negotiations is a favorable development. However, this in itself does not guarantee the success of the peace process. For example, it is hard to conceive of peace being concluded between Syria and Israel until Israel returns to the Syrians the Golan Heights seized from them as long ago as 1967. This is also the case with the Palestinians and the Lebanese, whose lands are still occupied. However, Israel has not as much as hinted at its readiness to return someone else's territories in exchange for peace. The Arabs themselves cannot force Israel to withdraw troops. Moscow is out of aces. The pro-Israeli orientation of American policy has been slightly mitigated, but not to the degree of guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Arabs.

This is why prospects for a "peace process" in the Middle East still fail to inspire particular optimism. After all, given the current array of forces, there is every reason to doubt that this process may bring about a just, and therefore firm, peace.

Pakistan's Nuclear Capability Examined

BK2610111491 Moscow Radio Moscow in Urdu 1100 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Commentary by Vasant Georgiyev]

[Text] Addressing top industrialists in Karachi, Pakistan's nuclear physicist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan announced that his country has become a nuclear power. Our commentator Vasant Georgiyev writes:

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan confirmed reports that have been appearing in the press and about which political personalities in Pakistan and other countries have been talking for a long time. You might recall that during the summer this year Pakistan's former Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto also announced that Islamabad possesses the technological know-how to manufacture a nuclear bomb. Earlier, last October, U.S. President George Bush could not certify that Pakistan did not possess nuclear weapons, which resulted in ending U.S. aid to Pakistan under U.S. laws—that is, under the Pressler Amendment.

These facts betray a Pakistani spokesman's emphatic assertions that Pakistan's nuclear program is not of a military nature. This time also, according to REUTER, a senior representative of the Pakistan Foreign Ministry, who was present at Qadeer Khan's meeting with the industrialists, reaffirmed that Pakistan's nuclear program is entirely peaceful, but his affirmation did not receive industrialists' attention because they were preoccupied with the nuclear physicist's open announcement. Abdul Qadeer Khan enthusiastically described his involvement in the manufacture of a specific weapon essential for delivering a nuclear bomb to its target. By this specific weapon he meant short-range missiles that find targets by using lasers. While talking about the laser rangefinders, Dr. Qadeer Khan also added that they are better than those produced by West European countries and the United States.

I do not want to confirm that what Abdul Qadeer Khan has said is true, but even if it is half true one must be concerned at this because it is possible that even if Islamabad has not crossed the nuclear threshold so far, it has definitely put its feet on that threshold. Moreover, it is also busy producing means to deliver nuclear bombs to their targets. This is not Pakistan's internal affair alone, but is also an issue that may affect the security and interests of other neighboring countries.

Pakistan Urged To Sway Afghan Rebels

BK2610125391 Moscow Radio Moscow in Urdu 1100 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Commentary by Yevgeniy Nikolayev]

[Text] The UN Secretary General's personal representative Benon Sevan has again begun a visit to Afghanistan and other countries of the region. Our commentator Yevgeniy Nikolayev writes in connection with this.

The objective of Benon Sevan's visit is to help resolve the Afghanistan problem. The UN Secretary General's peace plan, which was endorsed by all the parties concerned with the conflict, may become the basis for settlement of the dispute. The decision taken jointly by the United States and the Soviet Union to stop arms supplies to the rival parties in Afghanistan from 1 January is an important and solid step toward a settlement of the conflict in that country. In this connection, the question arises as to how the decisions of the two superpowers will help bring about a cease-fire. This depends, to a great extent, on Pakistan and other countries concerned with the conflict.

Only from Pakistan have arms been supplied to the Afghan rebels for about 13 years. Pakistani troops were directly involved in capturing the Afghan city, Khowst. According to the reports of the Kabul regime, seven Pakistani soldiers were killed along with several mujahidin cadres in the fighting near Gardeyz. Pakistani authorities can effectively bring pressure on the Peshawar-based Afghan rebel leaders. If Pakistan prevails upon the leaders of the three hardline mujahidin groups to adopt a softer stand, the prospects for ending the war will become brighter.

It is also noteworthy that the United Nations, the Soviet Union, the United States, and other countries are hopeful that Pakistan will play a positive role in resolving the Afghanistan issue. During their meeting with the UN Secretary General, the representatives of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Soviet Union, and the United States expressed this hope. The meeting convened to discuss the situation in Afghanistan was held at the UN headquarters before the departure of Benon Sevan.

Observers feel that Benon Sevan will hold discussions on the possibility of convening soon an international conference in Geneva with all the parties interested in resolving the Afghanistan issue. Issues pertaining to an end to the bloodshed in Afghanistan, the setting up of an interim government, and holding elections are expected to be discussed at the conference. It is clear that the success of this plan lies with the Afghan people themselves. But other countries, especially Pakistan, can also demonstrate their sincerity for finding a political solution to the Afghanistan issue.

Shaposhnikov Meets Iranian Envoy on 22 Oct

LD2310212891 Tehran IRNA in English 0851 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 23, IRNA—Tehran-Moscow ties were discussed here last night during a meeting between Iranian Ambassador Nematollah Izadi and the Soviet Minister of Defence Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. Izadi told IRNA after the meeting, that with regards to friendly ties between the two countries, the talks centred on mutual interests for promotion of bilateral relations.

East Europe

Gorbachev, Genscher on SFRY Issues

LD2710174691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1621 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct 27 (TANJUG)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher have urged a respect for the principle of 'inviolability of Yugoslavia's existing borders', said a statement issued here late last night.

This position was defined during a one-hour meeting at the Kremlin yesterday between Gorbachev and Genscher who, as stated, 'devoted much attention to the ways for a peaceful resolution of the Yugoslav conflict'.

'It was underlined that the major principles of the Helsinki process must be respected, especially the principle of inviolability of the existing borders. The two sides also insisted on the need for finding a reasonable formula which would take into account the interests of all Yugoslav peoples and which would enable a deblocking of the heightened political and military conflict in Yugoslavia', the statement said.

Competent Soviet officials could not be reached today for an additional explanation of the statement, so that it remains unclear whether the formulation applies only to the external borders or to the internal ones as well.

An impression remains that Gorbachev and Genscher did not go much farther from the Hague formula of Lord Carrington which Soviet officials support as a global framework within which the Yugoslav peoples should seek 'concrete formulas'.

As for the Soviet position, well-informed foreign analysts and diplomats in Moscow say that the good intentions to contribute to preserving Yugoslavia in whatever form it may exist should not be doubted at all.

On the other hand, they point out the objective Soviet limitations because of the difficulties at home [as received].

Finally, it is also believed that Germany has adjusted its position because of tactical reasons and that it remains committed to the strategy of breaking up Yugoslavia.

Foreign analysts note that during his talks in Moscow, especially with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Genscher put much emphasis on the question of the two million 'Soviet Germans', whose ancestors came to Russia two centuries ago.

The analysts say that while Germany has a maximalist approach towards its minority in the Soviet Union - proclaiming it a nation and demanding 'statehood' for it - it uses a completely different yardstick when the crisis in Yugoslavia is concerned.

The German foreign minister, who today ended a two-day visit to Moscow, and Gorbachev also defined a joint position as concerns the Soviet Union's positive approach to the idea of cooperation with NATO as part of 'building a structure of European security on completely new foundations' which would take into account the interests of the NATO member states and that of eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union.

According to the statement from Gorbachev-Genscher talks, this cooperation might in future lead to 'the creation of a coordinated security system spreading from Vancouver to Vladivostok'.

Serbian Opposition Leader on SFRY Crisis

OW2510180991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vuko Drascovic, leader of Serbia's most representative opposition movement, who arrived in Moscow on Thursday [24 October] at the invitation of Russia's Vice-President Alexander Rutskoy, has told journalists that his main goal is to exchange views with the leaders of a fraternal nation on the problems facing Yugoslavia and ways of dealing with them.

Commenting on the recent visits to Moscow by the Serbian and Croatian presidents, Mr. Drascovic said "it is illogical for people who unleashed the war in Yugoslavia to begin talking about peace." Describing the continued conflict in Yugoslavia, he said it is first and foremost a conflict between Orthodox believers and Catholics. He admitted, however, that Serbo-Croatian hostility may have its roots in the years of WWII, when Croatia supported Germany and pursued a "genocidal policy towards Serbia."

Mr. Drascovic described the war in Yugoslavia as a "clash between two totalitarian systems—Serbian Communism and Croatian Nazism, a Serbian Stalin and a Croatian Hitler." He said the rights of Serbians in Croatia should today be defended as actively as the rights and interests of Russians should tomorrow be defended in the republics seceding from the Soviet Union.

Troop Withdrawal Treaty Signed With Poland

LD2710004191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct 26 (TASS)—The latest, 12th, round of talks on concluding a treaty between the governments of the USSR and the Republic of Poland on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland took place in Moscow on 25 October. As a result, coordination of the text has been fully completed, and at the instruction of the two governments it was today initialled by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Deryabin and Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jerzy Makarczyk, the information directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced. The treaty states that all Soviet combat

units will be withdrawn from Poland by 15 November 1992, and the remaining units by the end of 1993. Furthermore, the most favorable conditions will be guaranteed for the troops.

The sides achieved mutual understanding on a linkage between the troop withdrawal and the solution of property, financial, and other mutual issues. The appropriate intergovernmental protocol will form an integral part of the treaty on troop withdrawals. The sides intend to complete joint drafting of the protocol before the end of the year. Work on the text of an intergovernmental agreement on the transit through the territory of Poland of the Soviet troops being withdrawn from the FRG is continuing and is progressing successfully.

The initialling of the text of the treaty on the withdrawal of troops from Poland is evidence of the constructive approach of the leadership of the USSR and the Republic of Poland to the problems existing in relations between the two states and of their aspiration to develop these relations on a fresh basis, in the spirit of the traditional friendship and cooperation, mutual trust, and respect for international law.

Polish Foreign Minister on Treaty

LD2610214391 Warsaw PAP in English 1955 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By correspondent Jerzy Malczyk]

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 26—Under an agreement reached in Moscow Saturday [26 October], all Soviet combat troops stationed in Poland will be pulled out from that country by November 15, 1992, and the remaining ones by the end of 1993.

A treaty to this effect, initialled here on Saturday by Polish and Soviet Deputy Foreign Ministers Jerzy Makarczyk and Yuriy Deryabin, also stipulates that at the beginning of 1993 the Soviet troops in Poland will number no more than 6,000 men, and at the beginning of the fourth quarter of 1993—no more than 2,000.

The treaty is the first result of the nearly year-long negotiations. Other documents are being prepared, concerning the transit of Soviet troops being withdrawn from Germany, and a protocol on property, financial, legal, economic and ecological matters connected with the pullout of the troops from Poland. The latter document is the condition sine qua non for today's treaty to come in force.

Another round of talks on the remaining issues is expected to be held in Warsaw in mid-November. Vice-Minister Makarczyk believes it will be the very last one and end in the signing of the protocol.

Makarczyk told newsmen he was very much satisfied with the results of the talks. November 15, 1992, is a much earlier date than the Soviet side proposed before. He also hoped to negotiate further concessions so that the Soviet contingent to be stationed in Poland till the end of 1993 be smaller than set in the treaty.

Makarczyk stressed that the acceptance of the dates fixed for the pullout was a sovereign decision of the Polish Government that should be assessed in the European context.

"We are regularly in touch with European organizations," Makarczyk said. "We also remember that the Soviet troops stationed in Germany find themselves on the territory of the European Community and the NATO. Poland is seeking association with the EC and has new relations with the NATO. All we can do in such a situation is to facilitate the realization of the German-Soviet treaty," the Polish official declared.

Deryabin assessed the treaty as a compromise favourable to both sides and said it constitutes a new quality in mutual relations.

The text of the treaty has not been published yet. It is believed it will be made public only after the document is signed. The two countries are to appoint their plenipotentiaries to coordinate the implementation of the decisions of the treaty.

Property in Question as Army Leaves Poland

PM2510144191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 3

[By N. Burbyga: "Soviet Forces Leaving Poland Are Being Stripped as They March"]

[Text] Soviet forces deployed in Poland are to leave the country in two phases. Combat units will leave the Polish Republic by the end of 1992. The others will leave the country by the end of 1993. Colonel General V. Dubynin, commander of the Northern Group of Forces, told our correspondent about the way the withdrawal of the forces is being carried out and what difficulties have arisen during the course of it.

[Dubynin] We are withdrawing the forces ahead of schedule. We succeeded in withdrawing a large number of servicemen by 1 September. Everything was done so that people can settle down in their new places, and children can prepare to go to school before the cold weather sets in.

We will withdraw forces only by railroad. The cost of one railcar is $46,000. It is expensive. But we have no option. We are forced to agree to such expenditure since we have been forbidden to withdraw our forces "under our own steam." It suits Poland that we leave by railroad.

[Burbyga] To whom is the property of the Northern Group of Forces being transferred?

[Dubynin] Unfortunately we have no mechanism for the sale of real estate as yet. We have been forced to mortgage it without assessing its real value.

The Polish side is demanding that all installations constructed since 1945 be handed over free as compensation for the environmental damage caused, which has been assessed at 32 trillion zlotys, equivalent to approximately $6.5 billion. We asked what methods were used to calculate this, but we did not receive a reply. Now we are hearing demands like this: You should pay us for every tonne of coal you burnt, for the exhaust from every vehicle, for every person who breathed in Polish air...

[Burbyga] But after all, we have some experience in this matter. Forces have been withdrawn from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Mongolia, and they are being withdrawn from Germany...

[Dubynin] The problem is that until now no protocol on property or financial questions has been signed between our countries. And since that is the case, these questions are handled in a new way every time depending on individual opinions. For example, when we were selling fuel and equipment, which was economically inexpedient to take back to the Union, we were required to pay a state import duty and a tax on their sale. What can we do in such circumstances?

The purpose of such conditions is clear to me: They want one thing from us—that we agree to economic concessions, that is, we give everything away free. [Dubynin ends]

After I spoke to the commander of the Northern Group of Forces, I met with members of an RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet deputies' commission who have recently been in Poland.

"We are losing billions in freely convertible currency in Poland," V. Skrynnik, a member of the commission, told me. "Take real estate alone. Recently we have transferred 1,547 installations to the protection of Polish authorities, of which 675 were constructed at Defense Ministry expense. But they have still not been sold and are losing their commodity form. And no one knows what is to happen to them, because there simply is no mechanism in existence for selling them. We still have to transfer another 4,585 installations, 2,179 of which have also been constructed out of the military's resources. Furthermore, the authorities in the Polish Republic have introduced a system that restricts the normal economic activity of the Northern Group of Forces."

So, without rhyme or reason, the Polish side is rejecting our proposals concerning the settlement of property, financial, and other questions and our assessments of the value and sale of various kinds of property and real estate. The account of the Northern Group of Forces in the Polish National Bank has been blocked. It still has not been established which firms will mediate in the sale of the Northern Group of Forces property, and a customs duty and turnover tax are being imposed on various kinds of property being sold, as high as 30 to 60 percent of the value of the commodity. At the same time the tariff rates on transportation services have been raised, which makes it economically inexpedient to take material resources to USSR territory. For example, the cost of taking one railcar to the USSR border is $1,400-1,500, and for a vehicle it is $260. But we are bearing colossal losses also because Union organizations such as the All-Union Association for the Export and Import of Industrial Goods, the All-Union Association for the Export of Machinery and Equipment, the All-Union Association for Fruit Import, the Ministry of Finances, and the Ministry of Railways have signed contracts to supply material resources and provide services for the group's troops without the participation of representatives of the Northern Group of Forces and without taking their interests into account, at prices that considerably exceed world prices.

Is there a way out of the prevailing situation? According to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet commission, first of all the signing of documents on the withdrawal of Soviet troops must be speeded up, and they must specially stipulate the settlement of property, financial, and other economic questions so that the methods used to assess the value and sale of movable property and real estate are finally established. But who will take on the burden of such work today?

Since the Northern Group of Forces units are being withdrawn into Russian territory, Skrynnik believes, it is the RSFSR Supreme Soviet that should take all the sale of various kinds of property and real estate on the Polish Republic's territory under its jurisdiction. Then the account should be unblocked and the resources going into it should be released for the provision of facilities for the troops being withdrawn, since over 9,000 officers and warrant officers in the group do not have housing in the Union. But while all this is being resolved, we must grant an official responsible for the affairs of Soviet forces present in Poland the right to independently resolve all property, financial, and economic questions with the Polish side.

Hungary Marks Invasion Anniversary

PM2510151991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 4

[By correspondent F. Lukyanov: "Hungary Welcomes Moscow Statement"]

[Text] Budapest—Speaking at a briefing in Moscow, A. Grachev, chief of the USSR president's press service, stated that M.S. Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership condemn without any reservations and consider contrary to international law the intervention of Soviet troops in Hungarian affairs in 1956. This is the first time such an evaluation of the events has been heard from official Soviet representatives. The very same day Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall stated that he welcomed the statement made in Moscow and expressed the hope that it would facilitate the removal of the final obstacles in the two countries' relations, which would be

particularly valuable on the eve of the signing of the new treaty already fully agreed between the USSR and the Hungarian state.

For my own part I will add: It is expected in Budapest that the USSR Supreme Soviet with its new membership will finally make a reply on the substance of the Hungarian parliament's appeal, which contains a request to review the evaluation of the 1956 Soviet military intervention in Hungary as was done in the case of the 1968 intervention in Czechoslovakia.

However painful it is to have to say that 1956 was a tragedy for Hungary, that our country was also involved in sending its troops to "suppress counterrevolution," it is still necessary to talk about this, all the more so as the history of those days has quite a few gaps. Many details of the events that took place in an exceptionally complex international situation have still not been cleared up. Even now we do not know how many of our soldiers perished on Hungarian soil that terrible fall. According to Hungarian statistics, it was around 5,000 men.

The 35th anniversary of the events was marked in Hungary without any excesses or witch-hunts, as some people would have wanted. Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, sentenced to life imprisonment for participating in the "counterrevolution," pointed out this danger on the eve of the anniversary. "The subject of 1956 is starting to be affected by a disease whereby we try to rehash our history in retrospect on the basis of present-day political requirements," the president stated. "We must preserve from 1956 what shone out at that time—the fact that we saw the finest hour of national unity, with communists also dying for freedom..."

Yes, the attitude to the events of 35 years ago and to those who participated in them is equivocal in Hungary to this day. But I will nevertheless emphasize what is most important: This significant anniversary passed off first and foremost as a day of national reconciliation.

Hungary To Deliver 3 Million Tonnes of Grain

LD2710103691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] The first 240,000 tonnes of top-quality wheat have been sent to the Soviet Union from Hungary. It is addressed to Russia, the Ukraine, and million other republics [as received].

All in all, Hungary will deliver over 3 million tonnes of grain, including corn and barley, within the next few months. In addition to that, Soviet consumers can rely on 120,000 tonnes of Hungarian apples. Deliveries only started after the Hungarian Government, together with the Soviet side, gave the Hungarian agricultural producers guarantees of payments for the good delivered.

West Europe

Gorbachev, Mitterrand To Meet 30 Oct

LD2810115291 Moscow TASS in English 1130 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow October 28 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev will inform Francois Mitterrand during their October 30 meeting on the work of the international Middle East peace conference and the results of his talks with the U.S. President George Bush. The Soviet-French summit will be held in the south-western part of France, where the head of the Soviet state will fly from Madrid for a few hours.

According to reliable USSR Foreign Ministry sources, the Soviet side will show interest during the Soviet-French meeting in problems linked with the NATO Council session, scheduled to be held in Rome from November 7-8. The NATO allies are expected to discuss new concepts of Euroatlantic security. The NATO countries have recently advanced several initiatives on the new role of the West European Union, on the strengthening of the 12-nation political alliance in Europe. It is not ruled out that the presidents of the two countries will again discuss Mitterrand's idea to set up a European confederation.

It is believed in Moscow that the French president's proposal to hold a quadripartite meeting of nuclear powers, attended by representatives of the USSR, the United States, Great Britain and France, will be among the items to be discussed by the two presidents.

The Gorbachev-Mitterrand summit will also focus on problems of bilateral relations. The sides are particularly concerned about the state of their economic relations. The domestic situation in the USSR prevents French businessmen from finding reliable partners in the country. On the other hand, Soviet businessmen, who are trying to establish relations with foreign colleagues, cannot be sure even of their own existence in the foreseeable future.

At the same time, experts believe that Mitterrand may promise the Soviet president French assistance in the organisation of Western humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union.

TASS Details Gorbachev-Genscher Talks

LD2610200591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1845 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct (TASS)—USSR President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev received at the Kremlin today Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FRG vice chancellor and minister of foreign affairs, who is on a brief working visit to our country.

Andrey Grachev, presidential aide and head of the president's press service, told a TASS correspondent that, in the course of the conversation, which lasted for over an hour, Mikhail Gorbachev filled Hans-Dietrich Genscher in on the topical problems and progress in building a single economic area in the Soviet Union and the subsequent work on concluding the treaty on an economic community. It is expected that the republics, after discussing the necessary agreements that been drawn up as appendices to this treaty, will embark on the process of ratifying it.

The USSR president also said that in the coming weeks, after an analysis of the remarks and amendments that have been put forward by the republics taking part in the work on drafting the new treaty on the union of sovereign states, it will be possible to begin discussing it article by article in the course of one of the USSR State Council sessions.

Turning to the situation in the USSR and analyzing reaction of the West to the processes in the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev warned against hasty, imprudent pronouncements and, in particular, actions that fail to realize the uniqueness and originality of the processes under way in the USSR, which reflect a society's radical turn toward democratization and the construction of a commonwealth of republics and peoples living in the country on a radically new basis.

The vice chancellor, in turn, emphasized the great significance of the fact that the USSR president is politically guiding the process of shaping new Union structures, and he confirmed the support and friendly feelings of Germany and other Western states for the historic processes taking place in the USSR.

During the talks on issues in European and international politics, considerable attention was given to prospects for building, on a radically new basis, a cooperative structure of European security. The new structure would make it possible to combine all the qualitatively new elements of the situation recently come about on the continent with the interests of the NATO states, the countries of eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union. In the future it may be possible to talk about creating coordinated systems of collective security that would cover the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok. The USSR president confirmed that the new Supreme Soviet intends to begin, without delay, the ratification of recently signed treaties, including the treaty on reducing conventional arms and troops in Europe and the Soviet-U.S. accord on strategic and offensive weapons.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher voiced his strong support for the concerted joint efforts being made by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush in their parallel initiatives leading to a new stage of nuclear disarmament. A great deal of attention was given to issues related to a peaceful settlement of the Yugoslav conflict. Here the participants particularly stressed the need to observe the major principles of the Helsinki process, including the fundamental principle on the inviolability of borders. The discussion noted the need to find a reasonable formula that will take into account the interests of all the Yugoslav peoples and make it possible to remove the obstacles in this acute political and military conflict. Concluding the conversation, Hans-Dietrich Genscher confirmed the decision of his and other Western governments of the "Seven" to assist the economic reforms unfolding in the USSR on the basis of the coordinated actions of the former Union republics.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1900 GMT on 26 October carries a brief Moscow-datelined report on the Gorbachev-Genscher talks which reads: "President Gorbachev and German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher did not discuss in the Kremlin today the problem of the former GDR leader Erich Honecker, Andrey Grachev, head of the press service of the Soviet President, told TASS."]

Further on Talks

LD2610170591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1445 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct (TASS)—A meeting between USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has just started in the Kremlin.

According to diplomatic circles, the further development of ties between the USSR and the FRG, the interaction between our states in the international arena, and the functioning of and support for the European security system will be the main subjects at the talks between the politicians, who know each other well.

The current trip to the USSR by the head of the FRG Foreign Ministry is a working visit. Features of H.-D. Genscher's visit to Moscow include support for the relations taking shape with the center as well as the establishment of new ties with individual republics. It should be noted that he already visited Alma-Ata and Kiev this month. Talks between the German minister and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev took place last night.

In terms of specific issues, however, the FRG leadership and those of other Western countries prefer a single partner for talks on the USSR. This is mainly due to the fact that control over Soviet nuclear weapons is being discussed, and the possible extension of this control to several republics could undermine the whole system of European security that took shape over recent years. This issue of a single partner also applies to the repayment of money the West gave to one state—the USSR.

Pankin, Genscher Hold 'Successful' Talks

LD2610134991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1250 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct (TASS)—According to USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, his talks today with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher were successful.

The current visit by the head of the FRG Foreign Ministry is a working one, and, as journalists were told after the talks, a wide range of issues was discussed at the meeting on the development of bilateral relations as well as international problems, in particular, the conflict in Yugoslavoa and the Middle East peace conference. Important attention was given by the sides to disarmament and the functioning of the European security system.

H.-D. Genscher noted that he expressed to the Soviet side the FRG's interest in restoring the territorial autonomy of Soviet Germans. Though this subject was not raised at the meeting by Boris Pankin, it had an important place at a meeting yesterday with Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. According to Genscher, the Russian leadership affirmed that a special decision would be taken on this issue so as to reach unity between the two sides and to discuss German aid in restoring the statehood of these people by the time of the forthcoming November visit by Boris Yeltsin to the FRG.

Boris Pankin regarded the statement by Andrey Kozyrev as a slip of the tongue when he said that "the USSR Foreign Ministry, as it looks today, does not meet the interests of the Russian Federation and other republics or the formation of the renewed union." Before my trip to the Middle East, the USSR foreign minister stressed, there was full accord with regard to common tasks, coordination of efforts, and distribution of authorities between the Union and republican ministries. There is full accord regarding this issue between USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin.

Discuss Economic, International Scene

LD2610172191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who is in Moscow on a working visit, have held talks here. A detailed exchange of opinions on the whole range of Soviet-German relations took place.

The sides expressed their satisfaction with the forward progress in bilateral cooperation and the stable level of political contacts. It was pointed out that the establishment of interaction between the sovereign republics and the FRG is proceeding along the lines of the changes taking place in the USSR, enriching the picture of mutually beneficial ties.

Special attention was paid to issues of economic cooperation. It was noted that the reforms under way in the Soviet Union and the transfer of the country's economy to the market system are producing favorable conditions in the economic field and the establishment of new forms of economic links. Practical issues connected with the humanitarian and food aid given to the Soviet Union by countries in the West, including the FRG, were also considered.

International problems were given a lot of attention during the talks. An interesting conversation on issues of European development and prospects for the CSCE process took place. It was stressed that preparations for and the successful execution of the forthcoming Helsinki-2 conference was a most important task in this direction, as was the fact that the decisions made at the conference should significantly contribute to the construction of a new and unified Europe. The ministers spoke in favor of the Soviet Union and Germany continuing active cooperation in this field.

While discussing disarmament problems, both sides highly assessed the initiatives of the U.S. and Soviet presidents. The importance of measures outlined in the field of reducing tactical nuclear weapons in Europe was particularly singled out. It was noted that the Soviet Union and the FRG could see the reason behind creating a new, nonconfrontational security system based on cooperation among all European states.

Boris Pankin and Hans-Dietrich Genscher exchanged opinions on the situation in Yugoslavia, expressing deep concern over the continuing armed clashes there. Efforts by the world community, the ministers stressed, should be directed at halting the bloodshed in this country and ensuring the initiation of a negotiating process within which the peoples of Yugoslavia can choose their future statehood, rather than by force of arms.

Problems regarding the Middle East settlement and the international conference to open soon in Madrid were also discussed.

Discuss NATO, Financial Cooperation

LD2610122191 Hamburg DPA in German 1129 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow (DPA)—The Soviet Government has expressed its great interest in a close cooperation with NATO. Today in Moscow Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher explained to his counterpart Boris Pankin the initiative he and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker have developed for the NATO summit in Rome on 7-8 November. It suggests that a cooperation council of the alliance is to organize closer contacts. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hanns Schumacher said

Pankin's reaction was extraordinarily positive. It is an important sign for the meeting in Rome.

A lunch hosted by Pankin was, unexpectedly, also attended by Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. In order to discuss disarmament problems, above all regarding the Vienna disarmament agreement on conventional weapons, Genscher is accompanied by the German disarmament expert, Ambassador Josef Holik. The issue of safe control over the Soviet nuclear weapons is also on Genscher's agenda.

This afternoon Genscher will meet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Gorbachev's advisor Aleksandr Yakovlev. Genscher is planning to fly back to Bonn this evening.

In his talks in Moscow, Genscher repeatedly stressed that it is necessary to clarify the financial and political responsibilities of the Soviet Union and the republics as soon as possible. Genscher said this is decisive for future cooperation with the West. However, so far it is unclear who could be contacted. Therefore there is still uncertainty about an interim loan, it emerged from the German delegation during the talks.

Another top subject for the federal foreign minister was the extension of the CSCE structures. He called for the establishment of working parties from the expert groups of the Crisis Committee to deal with current problems. This way the CSCE should step by step gain a political structure, diplomats explained.

Genscher Cited on Talks in Moscow

PM2710212191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Oct 91 Union Edition p p 1,3

[By S. Guk: "H.-D. Genscher Did Not Leave Moscow Empty-Handed. President Mikhail Gorbachev Assured Him That the USSR Will Ratify All Disarmament Treaties"]

[Text] It seems that FRG Foreign Minister Genscher is breaking every record regarding the intensiveness of conducting talks: In not quite a day and a half spent in Moscow, he exchanged opinions with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, his Russian colleague Andrey Kozyrev, Eduard Shevardnadze, and Aleksandr Yakovlev.

Just one of the scheduled conversations, the one with Boris Yeltsin, did not take place and that was through no fault of the guest: The schedule of the Russian president, as was reported, proved to be too full, and no free time was found.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher declared on Friday before his arrival in Moscow that the biggest "headache" for Germany and the entire West is the threat of the USSR's collapse into "warring states at each other's throats." That scenario would mean the failure of all hopes for the creation of a pan-European system of security.

After the talks, IZVESTIYA's correspondent tried to secure a brief interview with Genscher, and it was granted—in the form of written answers to written questions. His press secretary explained the minister does not in principle answer oral questions posed by newspapermen, making an exception only in the case of radio and television.

[IZVESTIYA] You came to Moscow concerned about the threat to the system of pan-European security. Did your talks dispel or confirm these misgivings?

[Genscher] The development of antagonistic tendencies must not be allowed in Europe. The stabilizing element of integration must be extended to the USSR and the countries of central and eastern Europe. The network of cooperation that we have in the framework of the EC, the West European Union, and the Council of Europe must be consistently extended. The reaction of USSR Foreign Minister Pankin to the concept of dialogue and cooperation between NATO and the former states of the Warsaw Treaty Organization that has been devised and further elaborated by U.S. Secreaty of State Baker and myself seems to me to be important. The positive reception given to this idea is an important signal for the participants of the upcoming NATO summit in Rome: to embark on the creation of a common European space of security and cooperation in which there will be room for all and where no one will be the subject of discrimination.

[IZVESTIYA] You put forward a demand that the West should use its influence to stabilize the situation in the USSR. What means might be brought into play?

[Genscher] Germany has always supported, not just verbally, but by real deeds, the development and acceleration of reforms in the USSR. Thus, specific measures were devised at the London summit of the G-7 leaders that we have already achieved appreciable progress in. This dialogue will be continued. Last Sunday the deputy finance ministers of the G-7 countries embarked on talks in Moscow that are of important significance. The process of the USSR's inclusion into international financial organizations must be continued. It is essential that the Union and republics come to a clear understanding among themselves about the division of powers, thereby giving the necessary guarantees for compliance with both present and future accords. In the long term, the process of stabilization can pursue but a single objective: the consistent creation of pan-European structures, a single economy, a transportation system, ecological space, a joint energy system—I cite here just a few examples. [Genscher ends]

These are interesting answers despite the fact that the questions posed essentially remained open. But such is the style of the FRG foreign minister, who is the longest serving foreign minister in the world. (His style of answering questions as he, and not the interviewer,

deems necessary has long since become a favorite target for German satirists.) In the United States, White House spokesmen are not reticent in their assessments: if some of the Soviet republics, like the Ukraine, dream of becoming a military power, recognition, not to mention aid, will be refused.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher received his most important assurances from Mikhail Gorbachev: All disarmament treaties will be ratified (by whom specifically is a matter for the USSR, said the German minister, commenting on the fact that only seven republics are participating in the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet). The idea of cooperation with NATO was received positively by the Soviet president. The participants in the NATO summit of 7-8 November will have something to discuss.

Genscher raised with his Russian colleague Kozyrev the question of the speediest creation of a German autonomous entity on the Volga. This, he stressed, depends on whether Soviet Germans remain in the USSR or continue to emigrate to Germany. He was assured that the question will be resolved positively. During the upcoming 21-22 November visit to Bonn by Boris Yeltsin, there will be talk of implementing the project and of possibe German aid (primarily economic aid) in reestablishing the autonomous entity.

The topic of E. Honecker surfaced again. According to a DPA report, Kozyrev assured the guest that Russia has no legal grounds for keeping the former head of the GDR any longer. The matter is now up to the USSR Justice Ministry.

Finally, agreement was reached with Boris Pankin on stepping up mutual consultations. The time of turbulent changes requires prompt reaction to events. The Soviet minister will travel to Bonn no later than December or January.

Shaposhnikov Receives German Parliamentarians

LD2510110491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1445 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Oct (TASS)—Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, USSR Defense Minister, today received German parliamentarians led by Bernd Wilz, chairman of the working group of the Bundestag's CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union] faction visiting the Soviet Union.

Questions of Soviet-German relations, including military ties, were discussed during the conversation. Particular attention was paid to problems relating to the presence of Soviet troops on German soil as well as their return home. The meeting's participants noted the need to strengthen trust and mutual understanding, to develop contacts and ties in all areas, and to step up joint efforts to strengthen stability and security in Europe and throughout the world.

Troops in Germany Increase Security

LD2610155591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1850 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Berlin, 24 Oct (TASS)—Acts of violence by extreme right-wing groups operating in Germany's eastern lands against Soviet servicemen of the Western Group of Forces are forcing the latter to step up their vigilance and take extra measures to protect themselves. In particular, soldiers on guard duty or protecting military facilities are to don bullet-proof vests. This was announced on Radio Volga by Dmitriy Timashkov, head of the group's press center.

The colonel recalled 75 incidents during the last three months in which Soviet servicemen and members of their families were attacked or subjected to physical or verbal abuse. Soviet military bases had been attacked in separate instances. On 14 October a group of "skinheads" fired on the gates of a Soviet unit stationed near Cottbus. The soldier on duty fired two rounds into the air, whereupon the attackers rapidly made themselves scarce.

Neofascist tendancies, various manifestations of which have been seen of late in the new lands of the FRG, are giving rise to serious concern among Soviet servicemen who, under the treaty between the USSR and FRG on the conditions for the temporary presence and planned withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of Germany, are to remain in the FRG until 1994. Bearing in mind how ungovernable the new "brownshirts" are, there are fears for the safety of the children of Soviet officers who are, as a rule, taken to school on special buses.

All these disturbances are being imposed on a not particularly favorable psychological atmosphere. As is known, the future of many Soviet servicemen's families is not clear at present. From Germany, where part of the population is not hiding its desire to be rid of them, they will return to a Soviet Union in which the fate of the armed forces has not yet been decided. The head of the press center stressed that the command of the Western Group of Forces, in cooperation with the official authorities of the eastern lands of the FRG, is trying to establish good relations with the population. He called upon the German public to prevent unfriendly acts toward Soviet servicemen.

Foreign Minister Pankin Visits France

Meets Foreign Affairs Official

LD2410135791 Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By special correspondents Georg Mikhaylin, Viktor Khrekov, and Georgy Shmelev]

[Text] Paris October 24 TASS—The first day of Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin's official visit to France opened

today with a conversation with Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the French National Assembly.

In an interview with TASS after his meeting with Vauzelle, Pankin said a large part of the conversation was devoted to the situation in the Soviet Union and relations of the new state with the rest of the world.

Pankin said Vauzelle expressed sympathies for democratisation of political and economic life in the USSR and for new relations between the centre and republics which offer great opportunities for state independence. "At the same time, he expressed serious concern over the fact that the process at times takes opposite opportunities which jeorpadise control over nuclear arms and poses other problems", the minister said. During the conversation, Vauzelle noted that he expresses this concern on behalf of the French parliament.

"The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission assured me of the solidarity of the National Assembly and various political forces of France with our country emerging after the suppression of the putsch", Pankin said. "His words carry particular weight considering that Vauzelle was on the barricades in Moscow those days in August".

During his official visit to France, Pankin will have numerous meetings with state leaders, business representatives and will have a conversation with French President Francois Mitterrand. He will have negotiations with his French counterpart Roland Dumas. A broad range of topical international problems and Soviet-French relations will be discussed.

Meets With Dumas

LD2510123891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2034 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By special correspondents Aleksandr Krivykh, Viktor Khrekov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Paris, 24 Oct (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister B. D. Pankin's stay in Paris proceeded today in accordance with the program for his official visit to France.

The head of the Soviet foreign policy department had talks with French Foreign Minister R. Dumas. They worked both at a ministerial level and in working groups on bilateral issues, the Middle East, and the Asian and Pacific regions.

The parties confirmed their desire to develop bilateral ties in various fields, including increased economic cooperation, despite considerable difficulties in the USSR's economic life caused by elements of disorganization and, in some cases, the Soviet Union's debts. The ministers viewed the conversion of the military industry as one promising area for cooperation, noting the existence of interesting forms of cooperation in training cadres, such as the establishment of French training centers in the Soviet Union. The task of opening French and USSR cultural centers in Moscow and Paris, respectively, is being tackled.

In the discussion of international problems, Pankin and Dumas expressed satisfaction with the signing of the agreements on Cambodia, which took place the day before. Soviet and French diplomacy played a valuable part in drawing them up. The ministers stressed the need to treat these accords carefully and to make appropriate efforts to ensure that they are implemented successfully.

The ministers said world attention is now switching to the search for routes to a settlement in the Middle East and stressed the great importance of the Madrid conference, which opens soon. There is understanding that representatives of the French and USSR Foreign Ministries will maintain close contact, in order to give effective encouragement to the success of the Madrid conference and to the task of unblocking the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The situation on the Korean peninsula was touched upon. The ministers noted that the initiatives of M. S. Gorbachev and G. Bush to reduce nuclear arms, including the tactical component, create a favorable opportunity for a positive evolution in that region, where a considerable degree of tension still persists.

Pankin and Dumas expressed satisfaction with the intensive nature and the character of the Soviet-French dialogue, which is marked by richness and amicability.

Pankin also had several meetings today with prominent French political figures: A. Poher, president of the Senate; L. Fabius, president of the National Assembly; and M. Vauzelle, president of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly. He also had a conversation with E. Guigou, minister delegate for European affairs.

The French politicians were particularly interested in and concerned by the situation in the Soviet Union. They emphasized the importance of not allowing the country to disintegrate, as this would complicate considerably the opportunities for cooperation between the USSR and France and would be fraught with unpredictable consequences for Europe and the world. Views were also exchanged on a wide range of international problems.

A meeting with President F. Mitterrand is planned for the second and final day of the USSR foreign minister's official visit to France. Also scheduled are talks with J. Chirac, the mayor of Paris, and other appointments.

Talks With Businessmen

LD2610002191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Oct 91

["TV Inform" newscast interview with Foreign Minister Boris Pankin by unidentified reporter in Paris on 25 October—recorded]

[Text] The Elysee Palace—A meeting took place here between Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and French President Francois Mitterrand. Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac was as hospitable as ever, and after meeting with our country's foreign minister said: We share the view that solidarity has to be shown toward the Soviet Union and that it must be helped to find a worthy place in Europe and to blaze a trail to prosperity and peace.

[Reporter] You have been meeting business representatives today. Don't you think that there is a certain caution in their attitude toward us, with economic aid being dependent on the speed with which reforms proceed in our country?

[Pankin] No, I did not get that feeling. The caution that you are talking about exists, if at all, in top financial circles, including international ones, and naturally the political and state circles associated with them. I have dealings with this. As to the important French businessmen who belong to their confederation, I find, on the contrary, a certain impatience and even dissatisfaction over the fact that many specific matters in our cooperation, including the modernization of the oil industry, for instance, are slow to be dealt with on our side.

Says Gorbachev Controls Nuclear Arms

AU2510173291 Paris AFP in English 1702 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Paris, Oct 25 (AFP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has full control over his country's nuclear arsenal, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said here Friday [25 October].

"Nuclear weapons are under centralized control, therefore under the unified command of the president of the Soviet Union who alone is able to deal with this matter, in line with decisions taken by the State Council," the minister told a press conference at the end of a four-day visit here. Union leaders were currently reviewing what measures to take "to guarantee the centralized nature" of this control, he added before flying home.

Soviet nuclear weapons are currently deployed in Russia, Belorussia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and it was "legitimate" for the presidents of these republics to ask who controls them, Pankin said.

The Ukrainian parliament on Thursday accepted central Soviet control over nuclear weapons on its territory, but demanded a right of veto over their use.

Speaking of Western aid to the Soviet Union, the minister said that a G-7 mission from the richest industrialized countries would shortly be going to Moscow to examine how to funnel aid there.

French President Francois Mitterrand, with whom he held talks Friday morning, might also visit Moscow in December, Pankin said.

The minister, who was speaking to reporters after his talk with Mitterrand, said that Russian President Boris Yeltsin might come to Paris "in January or February."

The federal government in Moscow, he said, would "welcome such a visit, which would be perfectly in line with the new relationship in our country between the Union and the republics."

He reiterated Moscow's support for a Mitterrand proposal to hold a four-party summit of nations that maintain nuclear weapons in Europe—Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States. "It is not impossible," he said, that the issue be discussed next week in Madrid, when U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet ahead of the Middle East peace conference there.

"President Mitterrand detailed his idea, which is natural in the current situation, to convene the four nuclear powers for a general discussion on the future attitude to adopt vis-a-vis these weapons ...following the joint initiatives of Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev concerning tactical nuclear weapons. "I would personally add," Pankin said, "that we must discuss how we can get rid of these weapons as quickly as possible and head for minimum deterrence."

Other topics at the half hour-talks between the two men were the Madrid conference, Mitterrand's proposal for a European confederation, the domestic situation in the Soviet Union and European security and disarmament, French spokesmen said.

Pankin, in Paris to sign the Cambodian peace accord, also held talks here with U.S. Secretary James Baker, Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and French counterpart Roland Dumas.

Before leaving, he also met with French conservative opposition leader Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, who announced that "friendship pacts" would shortly be signed between the French capital and Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Departs Paris

LD2510170891 Moscow TASS in English 1556 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Paris October 25 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on Friday [25 October] ended his two-day official visit to France.

During the visit, he met President Francois Mitterrand of France to congratulate him on his 75th birthday on behalf of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin.

Both leaders discussed prospects for Soviet-French summit meetings, including Mitterrand's visit to Moscow by the end of this year and Yeltsin's visit to Paris in the beginning of 1992.

Pankin gave the French president a letter from Gorbachev on economic cooperation. Mitterrand stressed France will continue its help to the Soviet Union to carry out reforms and overcome the current crisis.

Pankin and Mitterrand focused on the European process, including the Soviet concept of a European home and the French idea of a European confederation. Mitterrand stressed the Soviet Union's unity will be vital for stability in Europe and the whole world.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction with nuclear weapons cuts in the Soviet Union and the United States.

Pankin welcomed Mitterrand's proposal to hold a meeting of the four nuclear powers' representatives to discuss nuclear weapons safety and disarmament issues.

Pankin also met Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac and French business people to discuss bilateral relations and international issues.

Cypriot President Arrives in Moscow on Visit

LD2710184491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1702 GMT 27 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Oct (TASS)—Georgios Vasiliou, president of the Republic of Cyprus, arrived today in the Soviet Union on a working visit.

It is presupposed that he is to have a tete-a-tete conversation with Mikhail Gorbachev, USSR president, on 28 October, to be followed by talks between the Soviet and Cypriot delegations. Georgios Vasiliou is to speak before the professors and lecturers of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and to hold a news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists.

A conversation between the president of Cyprus and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic President Boris Yeltsin is to take place on 29 October.

The program of the visit by Georgios Vasiliou includes a tour of Uzbekistan, as well as one of Krasnodar Kray, where Pontian Greeks reside.

Meets With Gorbachev

LD2810104791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1005 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Oct (TASS)—A conversation between USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and President of Cyprus Georgios Vasiliou has just started. Vasiliou arrived in Moscow on Sunday [27 October] on a working visit. On conclusion of the talk between the two heads of state, expanded Soviet-Cypriot talks will take place. It is thought that during the talks questions of Soviet-Cypriot cooperation and a broad spectrum of international questions, including the problem of a Middle East settlement, will be discussed.

Cypriot Ambassador on Relations

NC2710201491 Moscow Radio Moscow in Greek to Greece 2100 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Interview with Cypriot Ambassador to Moscow Kharalambos Khristoforou on Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou's upcoming visit to the USSR by unidentified Radio Moscow correspondent—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador: How do you view the current level of relations between Cyprus and Soviet Union?

[Khristoforou] Relations between Cyprus and the Soviet Union are on an enviable level of development that covers every field of activity. Our relations can be described as traditionally friendly and exemplary. Relations were established immediately following Cypriot independence in 1960. Since then they have advanced without any problems or difficulties. The two countries have signed over 30 significant agreements in the political, economic, and cultural fields. These agreements constitute the firm foundation on which the development of our bilateral relations is based. Nevertheless, I believe that there are ways to expand Cypriot-Soviet relations in the economic field. It is not incidental that many Cypriot businessmen will be accompanying the Cypriot president during his visit to the Soviet Union. The changes taking place in the Soviet Union create new opportunities for the development and strengthening of the multifaceted bilateral democratic relations and interstate relations between Cyprus and the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

During the Cypriot president's visit, he will be able to exchange views with Soviet leaders on the whole spectrum of bilateral Cypriot-Soviet relations. The two sides will primarily brief each other on the current phase of the Cyprus issue [its dispute with Turkey] and on ways to resolve the extended deadlock. We have no doubts about the firmness and consistency of Soviet policy and stance on the Cyprus problem. We also believe that President Vasiliou's visit will give him an opportunity to activate efforts to promote a just and viable solution in concert with the favorable international climate on solving a series of regional disputes and problems. The most tangible example of this is the international conference on the Middle East. We hope that the Cyprus problem will have its turn and a solution will be promoted.

[Correspondent] What are your views on relations between the Soviet Union's republics and the Republic of Cyprus, and more particularly, between Cyprus and Russia?

[Khristoforou] Cyprus always maintained normal friendly relations with all the Soviet republics. Now, however, the changes taking place in the Soviet Union create new opportunities for direct relations with all the republics. We are in favor of developing our relations in various fields with all the republics without exception. Our relations with the Russian Federation are developed to a greater extent for various reasons. We have links with Russia in many ways, such as our long history and common traditions. We would like to develop these relations to a greater extent in all fields. I believe the new leadership of the Russian Federation agrees with me in this desire. During his visit to the Soviet capital, the Cypriot president will have a private meeting and talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. I repeat that it is the Cypriot Government's desire to establish and develop normal and friendly relations with all the Soviet republics without exception.

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Session Continues Work

Laws Adopted, Organization Viewed

LD2810085491 Moscow TASS in English 0834 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] Moscow October 28 TASS—A session of the Council of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet continued its work in the Kremlin today. It is expected to elect its chairman today and to endorse members of its standing commissions.

In the course of the first week of its work, the session adopted a law to amnesty servicemen, sentenced for dodging military duties. The bill was submitted to the parliament by the USSR president. It also passed decisions on several organisational problems.

A recess was announced in the Council of the Republic today. Its members, deputies from Russia, are to take part in the work of the fifth extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation.

Participation in Economic Union Urged

LD2510161991 Moscow TASS in English 1551 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondents Nikolai Zheleznov, Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Members of the USSR Supreme Council today urged sovereign states that have not yet decided to participate in the Treaty on the Economic Union and send their representatives to the Union parliament to realise the need for such steps.

The separate meetings of the chambers adopted an address of the USSR Supreme Council to peoples, supreme councils and leaders of independent states, as well as to the Council of States of the Economic Union.

The Supreme Council expressed concern over the fact that "chaotic disintegration of the republics of the former Union may further destabilise the situation and aggravate inter-republican relations". "It is only within a union that we can create rewarding conditions of life for peoples of independent states", the document says.

The address highly assesses the Treaty on the Economic Union signed by eight republics in the Kremlin a week ago. The address says the treaty "can become an important step toward "preparing a political agreement".

Standing Commissions Created

LD2510204191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1225 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Report from the Kremlin by TASS legislative correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)— A two-day debate which lasted several hours ended today at the session of the Soviet of the Republics of the USSR Supreme Soviet with the creation of 12 standing commissions of the upper chamber of the Supreme Soviet.

They include commissions on budget and finance, on interrepublican economic cooperation, on interrepublican relations, on issues relating to the organization and activity of interrepublican bodies, on security and defense, on agrarian policy and food, and on international affairs, among others.

Like the members of the Soviet of the Union, the deputies of the upper chamber have not deemed it necessary to create inter-chamber committees.

Vasiliy Dolgolev, a deputy from Belarus believes that, unlike previous parliamentary bodies, the commissions of the present Soviet of the Republics will implement conciliation procedures to tackle issues affecting the interests of all the republics.

Deputies Interviewed

OW2510140691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1126 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Interview with Nikolay Bobritskiy, Vladimir Kirillov, Dr. Pavel Bunich, members of the Supreme Soviet's House of the Union, by INTERFAX correspondent Marina Chernukha; date and place not given; from "Nation & Society"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Nikolay Bobritskiy:

M. Chernukha [M.C.] What would you say, Mr. Bobritskiy, is the principle goal facing the new Supreme Soviet?

N. Bobritskiy [N.B.] The Supreme Soviet ought to concentrate now on solving economic problems. Since our economy is in this alarming, you might even say explosive, state, the emerging structure of the Supreme Soviet should aim all its efforts at overcoming the crisis.

M.C.: Can you tell me in more detail why you give priority to the economic problem in the Supreme Soviet?

N.B.: In the past year I have changed my viewpoint, as many others, I daresay, since events developed at a breakneck speed and called for adjustments. A year ago I thought it was easier to cure economy within one republic, now it looks the other way around: it's next to impossible to achieve that for one republic alone. Speaking of economic independence of some region or

republic, if we kept an economically isolated space, we would practically stifle all industrial production there. So, political and partly economic independence should concern taxation, finance, and budget, but a producer, or entrepreneur, needs a single economic space. In my opinion, it's wise for the republics' leaders to give up economic management altogether. Let enterprises sort out on their own how much they would benefit from such a single space. May be after some 3 or 5 years the republics will be able to build self-contained infrastructures worth speaking of, but now it's hopeless.

M.C.: Do you expect any friction between the two new chambers—the House of the Union and the House of the Republics? The latter is expected to have a right of veto over the decisions of the former, isn't it?

N.B.: No, I don't expect such friction. I think that the Union House is largely made up of professional deputies: experts, such as Oleg Bogomolov, Nikolay Petrakov, Pavel Bunich and others. As an economist, I name my colleagues, in the first place. Never before have they been members of parliament, and if those professionals suggest some progressive solutions, I don't think the two houses will have any clashes.

If the intellect of the House is channelled into planning progressive solutions, and its political tact is employed in convincing the House of the Republics to accept them, it will be all right.

M.C.: Many doubts are expressed as to whether the new Supreme Soviet can last long. Journalists bet for a month, or two, or three. What do you think, will this Supreme Soviet be a purely "decorative" one?

N.B.: If, as economists point out, we are to break out of the crisis together, some kind of constituent assembly will be needed one way or another. If it succeeds in finding ways to overcome the crisis at least conceptually, and then try to implement them at specific enterprises in the republics, it will have fulfilled its mission.

M.C.: You mean, if I understand you right, that the Supreme Soviet should become a sort of "brain trust" for the country?

N.B.: That's it, not politically, but from the economic point of view. Our colleagues from the Union of the Republics are beginning, it seems, to understand it. At the very first sessions I saw that the more agressive deputies from the republics lost some of that negative approach and opened their eyes to some of our problems having rubbed shoulders with us here. We'd better borrow each other's valuable experience and avoid each other's mistakes instead of repeating them.

M.C.: So, you wouldn't bet on the Supreme Soviet's speedy demise, would you?

N.B.: No, and not just because I am its member. I am sure the republics can't withdraw into isolation within their borders, at least not in five coming years—that would be impossible. We have no intention to build a power structure over the republics, mind you. We meet here to benefit our respective republics not by super-republican, but inter-republican action.

M.C.: Have you understanding for your ideas, Mr. Bobritskiy, among the Belorussian deputies in the House of the Republics?

N.B.: The Belorussian people are generally known as calm and level-headed. Our delegation is quite representative of those qualities. We are not trying to force the events. We are prepared to work constructively, not destructively, we are willing to round sharp corners. But if it comes to the Soviet Union disintegrating, then we'll have to think how to live on our own.

Member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vladimir Kirillov:

M.C.: What are your ideas of the new Soviet parliament, Mr . Kirillov?

V. Kirillov [V.K.]: This Supreme Soviet and the way it was formed—with the republics sending their delegations—reminds me of the stock exchanges recently formed in the USSR: at first a broker's seat was cheap—about 100,000 roubles, but then the price has soared to 5 mn. [million]. I have an inkling the same will happen in this Supreme Soviet formed on a voluntary basis. After some time it will attract all the republics.

M.C.: You mean a new Union will be formed?

V.K.: Yes, a union of sovereign states. Its membership will confer great advantages over outsiders. Look at the Common Market: those who failed to join at the start are applying now and comply with very stringent terms to enter,—Turkey, for instance.

M.C.: Do you expect the republics to ask for membership instead of being asked, as now?

V.K.: Absolutely. The economic benefits for members will be quite substantial. So, I'm not one to doubt the long life of the new Supreme Soviet.

Dr. Pavel Bunich:

M.C.: What has induced you to stand for this new Supreme Soviet?

P. Bunich [P.B.]: I am head of the Entrepreneurs' Union, the largest association of the kind in the USSR. I intend to protect their interests in the Supreme Soviet, it is so essential today that I have resolved to sacrifice for it what little spare time I had.

M.C.: Are you sure your sacrifice will not turn out meaningless if the new Supreme Soviet is short-lived?

P.B.: There are three points of view: one is that the Supreme Soviet is already "dead" and remains to be buried—a view rather popular in the press, by the way. The second is that it will last for some time, the question is how long? Three months or six? Till signing a new Union Treaty or till adopting a new Constitution? But I

favour a third view: Such a structure is needed for the future. We may no longer call it a Supreme Soviet, but a family of states—there is such a political notion—always engenders at least a modest political superstructure.

I spent 36 months in a Soviet delegation attending a parliamentary session of the European Council (numbering 26 member-countries). The assembly works out conceptions and conventions, which all the countries are free to ratify or reject. Its decisions are in the character of recommendations. They concern problems of economy, ecology, and many others. All the member-countries use the products of that collective brain. As I see our future, even if we keep only an economic agreement, we'll have to form such a political super-structure. I'd call it "parliamentary assembly of the council of Eastern Europe and Asia". I think such a structure will eventually emerge, though possibly without us. The present Supreme Soviet may be buried, after all. This is possible since the order of the day is not so much calm thinking as "the terror of the political environment" round the Supreme Soviet—admittedly, an unhappy name, we have no longer any right to call ourselves that way, we should have found a different appellation from the start. However, if we persevere a month or two and succeed in passing some important acts such as, shall we say, a convention protecting free enterprise and private property, etc., the Supreme Soviet will survive.

M.C.: And how do you see interaction between its two houses?

P.B.: Can't say I have a clear idea, but it's right to give one of them supremacy. Otherwise Russia would rule the show—of the 200 deputies in the House of the Union 150 represent the Russian Federation.

Political & Social

Political Consultative Council on Economic Treaty

LD2610013791 Moscow TASS in English 2249 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—A regular meeting of the Political Consultative Council of the USSR president met on Friday [25 October] with Mikhail Gorbachev in the chair. Prospects for improving the socio-political situation opening as a result of the signing of the Agreement on Economic Union were discussed. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy delivered a report.

Although opinions varied, a consensus was reached that vigorous coordinated efforts of all parties to the treaty are needed for the treaty's implementation. Attempts of separate republics (states) to resolve their economic and social problems on their own are absolutely pointless. This is a severe but correct appraisal, and everyone should know of it. Similar assessments of most authoritative international organisations and experts were cited to confirm this view.

The participants in the meeting declared for interaction between the USSR State Council and republican structures to promote radical reform and strengthening of inter-republican, inter-state cooperation on a fundamentally new, truly equal and mutually advantageous basis.

The Political Consultative Council expressed serious concern over actions taken in some places, particularly, the Ukraine, actions that contradict the principle of unity of the country's Armed Forces. Such actions, in general opinion, require the closest of attention of the public. The USSR State Council cannot disregard them.

Members of the Council continued to exchange opinions on the situation that formed in a number of regions in connection with acute political and ethnic conflicts.

Relying on the initial experience of their work, the participants in the meeting expressed the striving to promote civic accord, social partnership and constructive cooperation of various democratic forces of the country.

Economic Committee Structure, G-7 Meeting

Repubican Leaders' Meeting Previewed

OW2510204891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

On Saturday [26 October], heads of the sovereign republics will meet in Moscow. This is going to be the first such meeting after the signing of the Economic Community Treaty. The conference will concentrate on the structure of the Interrepublican Economic Committee. This committee is expected to be led by a board consisting of the republics' vice-premiers. The board will have 4-5 major departments in charge of the main economic areas, and also a number of interrepublican departments the republics would wish to set up.

Introducing the project to his colleagues on Friday [25 October], member of the committee for operational management of the economy, Igor Gavrilov, said that the Interrepublican Economic Committee did not need "excessive" powers, but only "necessary and sufficient"—the ones deriving from the treaty.

The structure of the Interrepublican Economic Committee is to be approved by the State Council on November 4 which will also consider the drafting of 8 vitally important agreements within the Economic Community Treaty, including the ones on foreign debt, and banking and taxing systems.

Interview With Silayev

LD2610194591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1622 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Pershin]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct (TASS)—"A mutual responsibility approach" of the republics at the meeting with the representatives of the G-7 is not only possible but is necessary first and foremost on the issue connected with the realisation of the food program. This is how Ivan Silayev, head of the committee for the operational management of the USSR national economy, commented on the results of today's meeting with the heads of governments of 12 sovereign republics in an interview given to a TASS correspondent. At present, he went on, our main creditors—the European Economic Community, the United States, and Japan—have outlined their aims. They are ready to help us but would like to be sure that "credits can be granted to us and that we are capable of settling. And moreover that this is done not in dribs and drabs but taking into account collective responsibility—let's say through the USSR Gosbank".

As has been reported already, the arrival in Moscow of the first deputy finance ministers of the seven leading industrially developed countries of the West with a view to familiarizing themselves with the economic procresses in the sovereign republics was the reason for Silayev's meeting with the premiers of the republics. Talks with them will begin tomorrow.

Today, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the committee for operational management, familiarized the delegations of the republics with the results of his trip to Bangkok to the annual conference of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund where the question of cooperation with the USSR was in the focus of attention. In the words of Yavlinskiy, the West is in no hurry to grant credits to our country, linking assistance to a number of conditions. First of all, the "Seven" are interested in how the USSR will repay its debts.

There are different opinions on this account. Vitold Fokin, the Ukrainian prime minister, in reply to a question from TASS on whether the problem of foreign debt can be solved through the joint efforts of the republics, stated: "I do not believe in the possibility of reaching a consensus. Every republic has its own specific features. Every republic wants to know what it has to pay for, to whom and how much it has to pay."

Incidentally, the prime ministers realize that their discord at the meeting with the "Seven" may undermine confidence not only in the Union, but also in the republics. Ivan Silayev drew attention to this, having stressed that "if everyone acts independently, without assessing the situation as a whole, the results of the meeting with the representatives of the "Seven" will not be impressive."

The Food Agreement, already signed by 11 republics, was also discussed at the meeting. The three Baltic states joined it as associate members. The question of Moldova remains unresolved. As Valeriy Muravskiy, head of the government of the republic, told TASS, in principle, Kishinev is also ready to put its signature to the document. However, the prime minister is not satisfied by the fact that under the agreeement, Moldova will export foodstuffs but it is envisaged that reciprocal deliveries of other goods will be made for them on the basis of bilateral treaties with the republics which, in their turn, will demand once again, deliveries of food. Moldova will sign the food agreement once this problem has been resolved.

The food problem may be sharply exacerbated in the near future, in particular, due to the halting of foreign supplies. Gennadiy Kulik, deputy head of the Russian cabinet, and member of the committee, spoke of this. The reason for this lies in the insolvency of the Union. Half as much meat will be received than was planned. There will be a shortfall of seven million tonnes in grain deliveries from the West, too. In a number of regions of Russia, in the words of Kulik, there are only enough bread reserves to last until the end of December. The solution lies in cooperation between the republics and foreign partners.

Interview With Fokin, Silayev

LD2610213391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Interview with Ukrainian Prime Minister V. P. Fokin and Ivan Silayev, head of the Committee for the Operational Management of the USSR Economy, by unidentified correspondent, previewing scheduled 27 October Moscow meeting of G-7 and republican finance minsters; in Moscow on 26 October from the "TV Inform" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What, specifically, do you expect from tomorrow's meeting? What practical results?

[Fokin] There can only be one practical result. We have to resolve the most acute problem of fulfilling the commitments of each of the republics, the former subjects of the Soviet Union, fulfilling our commitments on the foreign debt. We have to know who is responsible for the debts. We have to know the size and the totals. How much a republic owes to whom.

[Correspondent] Also under discussion today was the structure of the Interrepublican Economic Committee. Ivan Silayev confirmed that there was no place in it for the sectoral Union ministries and departments. The option he proposed was supported in principle, but it was decided to give it more thought and, by 30 October, to send to Moscow packages of proposals from the republics, and to meet again on 1 November to put on the final touches, endorse the structure of the committee and the candidates for its chairman. The final choice, I remind you, belongs to the Council of Heads of Sovereign States.

[Silayev] Apart from that, we agreed on several documents aimed at implementing the Food Agreement. We prepared a draft presidential instruction on this, and an action program on fields, on countries, and on varieties of food. The food program was signed by 12 republics.

The Baltic republics are also taking part in the food program as associate members.

[Correspondent] It wasn't just the heads of the governments of the republics who signed the econonic agreement that you invited here today?

[Silayev] That's right, we didn't draw a line here today between the heads of the governments that signed and those that didn't sign. I have in mind that the processes are continuing, and I personally have no doubt that the figure 8 will change to a higher number.

Forthcoming Talks Discussed

OW2810001191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [26 October], government heads of the 12 ex-Soviet republics met in Moscow to discuss the forthcoming talks with the G-7 ministers on finances, the structure of the Interrepublic Economic Committee (IEC), and prospects for a food agreement between the republics. Deputy Chairman of the committee for the operational management of the USSR national econon Grigoriy Yavlinskiy emphasized that the G-7 envoys would ask, first of all, how the republics planned to honour their obligations on the repayment of the Soviet foreign debt. Further Western credits will depend on how the republics answer this question.

According to Yavlinskiy, he was under the impression after the recent IMF and IBRD meeting that Western countries do not yet have a well-defined line on how the Soviet Union should pay back its foreign debt. Asked about the possibility for the debt to be divided among the republics, Yavlinskiy said that in this case the West could suggest to them the so-called "solidarity responsibility," i.e., they will assume collective responsibility for debt servicing. Under this scenario, the share each republic will have to repay will rise 20 [percent] over today's amount of debt.

Talks with the G-7's envoys will start on Sunday [27 October] and close next day.

Chairman of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy Ivan Silayev submitted a blueprint for the IEC structure. The State Council will consider the blueprint on November 4. Under the blueprint, the community will tackle its strategic problems through the Council of Government heads, and major economic issues will be addressed by conferences of republican ministers. The IEC will be charged with preparing blueprints for decisions and coordinate work on their execution.

The IEC will be governed by a collegium including republican representatives at the level of deputy government heads and 5 or 6 deputy chairmen of the IEC. They will supervise an interrepublic food commission and five departments: economics, foreign economic ties and hard currency policies, energy, transport and information, science and technology and investment programmes, and social issues. The IEC is planned to have a staff of 700-750.

Silayev told IF [INTERFAX] that he had long since suggested Igor Gavrilov as IEC deputy chairman (Gavrilov has submitted his resignation as chairman of Russia's Council of Ministers), and that Mikhail Gorbachev had given "tentative agreement" to the candidacy. According to Silayev, another deputy must be Yavlinskiy who "will play a key role in the development of cardinal reforms with the involvement of Western partners." Silayev would not discuss other candidacies.

Gennadiy Kulik, a member of the Committee for the Operational Management of the USSR Economy, reported that 11 republics, excluding Moldova, had signed the Interrepublic Agreement on Food. The agreement envisages buying $8 billion worth of food abroad on credit. Kulik emphasized the need to speed up its implementation following a go-ahead from the Soviet president because Soviet foreign partners have for two months been refusing to supply the pledged food because of the insolvency of their Soviet partners. Because of this, the USSR will buy 1/10 of the butter, ½ of the milk, and ⅓ of the dried milk it had planned to buy in 1991.

New Structure Unveiled

OW2810084091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Soviet Union's caretaker government Ivan Silayev at a meeting of the prime ministers of 12 republics on Saturday [26 October] unveiled the blueprint of an Interrepublican Economic Committee which will succeed the present government. The new structure is due come for approval by the next meeting of the State Council on November 4.

Under the draft, a council of prime ministers will be charge of the community's strategies, but the ministers of different industries will hold regular conferences to handle economic issues. Mr. Silayev said the Economic Committee would coordinate some of the functions of former Union ministries which were not included in the committee.

The committee is to be run by a collegium of republican officials at the level of deputy prime ministers and by 5 or 6 vice chairmen of the committee itself. The committee will be responsible for an inter-republican food supply commission, and five departments to handle economic issues, foreign trade and monetary policy, power engineering, transport and information, research and investment programmes and social security. The committee's proposed staff includes from 700 to 750 people.

Further on CPSU Financial Practices, Dealings

Grachev on Spending, GDR Links

LD2410190?91 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Report by correspondent Yuriy Melikhov on news conference by Andrey Grachev, "head of the USSR president's press service"; place and date not given]

[Text] [Melikhov] Andrey Grachev did not confirm, but was not able to give a well-argued denial, the suggestion that the CPSU had directly financed foreign political and economic structures. In response to a question from an AFP correspondent asking if there had been this kind of financial flow to a French firm, Andrey Grachev replied:

[Grachev] Yes, this practice did exist. I don't think this was a secret to anyone. I can only say that for the Soviet side, the leadership of the Party Central Committee as it then was, this form of activity was seen as an act of political support for those political forces friendly—as we called them at the time—to us. As a rule, agreements or understandings of this kind were only a part of our talks, whether on a political level or, most often, on the level of corresponding economic bodies between political parties. But as far as I know, in the practice of the Soviet side, and I do have some knowledge of it, virtually never, perhaps with the exception of some exceptions, was this a matter of direct cooperation between some kind of financial-economic bodies of the Party. It was a matter of some instructions, and sometimes decisions, according to which our relevant state and economic structures, in the capacity of partners and on entirely beneficial conditions, cooperated or financed the activity of corresponding structures in West European countries.

I sincerely believe and hope that as much light as possible is shed on all these decisions and their, because unless this is done, the scope, the totals and size of these relations are going to get out of all proportion.

[Melikhov] Andrey Grachev replied just as diplomatically to a question from a correspondent of the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA. This was the question: Is it true that Mikhail Gorbachev personally asked Chancellor Kohl not to publish the archives of the Democratic Socialist Party [PDS] of the former GDR, since they contained instructions to German Communists on supporting underground political organizations in West Germany? This is what Andrey Grachev said: [Grachev] I can say that this is now a pretty long time ago, as it has been a long time since Gorbachev met Gysi. They talked about the fate and forms of storage and usage of the PDS archives at the time of the rapid reunification of the two German states.

I do know that on the instructions of President Gorbachev an appeal was indeed made to the authorities in West Germany, specifically to Chancellor Kohl. This concerned the part of the archive which might have an effect upon the political destiny, the reputation and just the human destiny of an entire range of figures on both sides of the former German border. In short, this meant the possible exposure of former figures in both the GDR and West Germany who were linked with the activities of the security bodies, the secret services. In respect of instructions from the CPSU which would have been given to the SED concerning the actions of and support for illegal parties, I don't have this information and I have grave doubts that these matters could have been a topic for conversation between Gorbachev and Gysi.

[Melikhov] Andrey Grachev also said he was not going to take it upon himself to judge the numerous ties between the CPSU and the SED in the pre-Gorbachev era. These ties were actively utilized by the Soviet and East German special services. However, in Andrey Grachev's words, he did not think that this kind of cooperation would ever have been raised to a political level. At the same time Grachev expressed the hope that many secrets of party cooperation will be revealed. He did not rule out the possibility of big scandals over the links between party structures, including those of the former GDR with terrorist organizations.

[Grachev) However, in no way am I able to confirm, and I think I am doing this with a clear conscience, that a political party's leadership might in that way have taken part in that.

[Melikhov] We'll wait and see.

Gorbachev Accused of Involvement

LD2510191591 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Telman Gdlyan has said in an interview with the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY that it is possible to spot Gorbachev's involvement in illegal acts connected with the financial activities of the CPSU. Telman Gdlyan believes that for the moment, however, the political aspects of the issues will overshadow the juridical ones and Gorbachev will not be brought to account.

'Unique Material' on Transfers

LD2610205591 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] On the tail of one of the most important events of last week—the hearing in the Russian Supreme Soviet on the CPSU— I will remind you that Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov made a statement on party use of hard currency from the state budget to support its partners in the West. Today the ARGUMENTY I FAKTY weekly has published unique material received by the editorial staff.

The newspaper is publishing a memorandum to Ivashko, the deputy general secretary, signed by Falin and Vlasov,

heads of Central Committee departments, as well as a list of so-called firms of friends who owed money to the CPSU. According to "Vesti" information, both documents were handed over to ARGUMENTY I FAKTY by Nilolay Fedorov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Justice Minister.

Money was transferred to the accounts of firms formed by foreign communist parties to prop themselves up financially. The firms seemed to have business relations with our country, but in reality, convertible currency was pumped through them to finance the political activity of friendly parties. It is a question of of money amounting to at least $10 million. Some parties may have major problems in their countries in connection with tax evasion. But that's their problem.

As far as we are concerned, the letter is dated February of this year, and this irrefutably proves that the party apparatus has been using the USSR state budget right up to recent times as a party kitty.

One more thing. So that Prime Minister Pavlov could once more present the state kitty to the CPSU, a political decision by the Central Committee was required, we read in the letter. What, or rather, who, what level, is concealed behind this apparatus formula? Is the deputy general secretary sufficient to adopt a political decision, or is he himself necessary? It goes without saying that this is a very interesting question. Only the investigation can give an answer to it. [video shows, against background of newspaper headline reading: Ivashko, Falin and Hard Currency, Fedorov speaking on rostrum, gold bars, Russian flag flying on former Central Committee headquarters; fingers flicking through files; facade of Finance Ministry building; Pavlov before coup reading a sheet of paper]

State Security Reform 'Just Beginning'

LD2510183191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1649 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—"The reform of the state security bodies is only just beginning," believes Vadim Bakatin, leader of the former USSR KGB, who now heads a new department, the Interrepublican Security Service. In an article published by IZVESTIYA today, Bakatin points, in particular, to the "extraordinary weakness" of the legal foundation which exists at present for the work of the country's new special services.

In Vadim Bakatin's opinion, the law on state security bodies in the USSR", adopted in May this year, is "a fragment of the past, and its force must be suspended by the legislators". "New draft laws are being produced now, but the legal vacuum taking shape until they are adopted is driving us into a dead-end," he writes. "In essence, we have a dilemma: either to be guided by the old legally binding foundation or to do nothing."

"The situation is complicated by the fact that in the absence of a Union treaty or an agreement on collective security, we cannot formulate an overall policy for the joint, common security of the community of sovereign states," the head of the Interrepublican Security Service believes, emphasizing that without such an overall policy, it is impossible to formulate clearly priorities for the activities of the new special services.

Vadim Bakatin warns against possible errors in the process of reorganizing the structures that guarantee the country's security. "Just one subjective decision could destroy in a moment the Foreign Ministry, the state security system or the Army," he stresses. "It would need new political decisions and loads of time and resources to recreate them from scratch."

Evidence of Active KGB Involvement in Coup

LD2510201591 Moscow TASS in English 1826 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—"According to available evidence, the management of the State Security Committee (KGB) was actively involved in preparing and staging the August coup d'etat," Anatoliy Aleynikov, the second in command of the Interrepublican Security Service, told a news conference here today.

The news conference dealt with results of the investigation into actions by officials from KGB units and frontier troops during the failed coup.

Aleynikov said that all available information had been submitted to Russian authorities. He said the investigation confirmed the fact that former KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov was directly involved in the conspiracy.

Kryuchkov's former first deputy, Col.-Gen. Viktor Grushko also took a direct part in the putsch and issued important orders to implement the plotters' designs, Aleynikov said.

A special commission of the Russian Government received materials about circumstances of the information blockade and physical isolation of President Mikhail Gorbachev at his Crimean holiday retreat in Foros.

Col.-Gen. Gennadiy Ageyev, former KGB first deputy chief, was in charge of these operations, Aleynikov said. At his order, command of one frontier unit and a brigade of coast guard boats was transferred to Yury Plekhanov, head of the service protecting the president, and his deputy Vyacheslav Generalov, and all communications means at the presidential house were disconnected.

An investigation conducted in several units of the KGB central headquarters revealed gross violations of norms regulating special operations and use of special forces and means with regard to people's deputies and officials of the Russian Federation.

Observers on Ukraine, Northern Territories

LD2710222991

[Editorial Report] Moscow All-Union Radio First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian at 1130 GMT on 27 October carries the 30-minute "The World This Week: International Review" international observers at the roundtable discussion program, hosted by All-Union Radio foreign political commentator Vladimir Georgiyevich Pasko. Pasko's guests on the program are Vsevolod Ivanovich Sovva, deputy head of USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate and Gennadiy Aleksandrovich Polyakov, an international affairs journalist;

Pasko begins by listing the main international events of the week. The first item is Western reaction to the Ukraine's move to put nuclear weapons under the control of its own president, seen as violating the nonproliferation treaty. The West may apply political and economic pressure, Pasko notes.

Polyakov interjects the comment that, regarding the northern territories, Japan is "showing a serious willingness to negotiate with Sakhalin ispolkom".

Reverting to the Ukraine, Pasko says it is understandable that the republic wants to take part in disarmament talks, but asks why "threaten what has already been achieved?". The West is right to be concerned, he says. Pasko notes that CSFR President Vaclav Havel wants Czechoslovakia to become an associate member of NATO because he is worried about his country's security in view of the Ukrainian decision.

Sovva moves to another topic, saying that it must be decided who will pay the USSR's soaring foreign debts. They must be paid, he says, because in the West "there's no such thing as a free lunch". By the end of the year the USSR must pay about 10 billion dollars, he says, "even if they give us some kind of help, we'll have to pay immediately". Various forms of credit are possible and some repayments might be deferred. Western partners are now willing to "provide money for specific programs", but not for general ones. The West understands that Soviet reforms are taking time. Sovva says he has misgivings about the opening in the USSR of "various raw material exchanges trading in energy resources", because coal reserves are running out. Foreign currency obtained from the sale of mineral resources must be used for capital investment in the deposits, to increase production.

In reply to a Pasko question about the behavior and the responsibility of the media in the current hard times, Polyakov describes his work in the Supreme Soviet working group for the elaboration of the press and media law. He says the law should deter the press from misleading people. The media should behave responsibly and represent events accurately. He goes on to speak about the experience of the foreign press. The press, he says, must have obligations to society as much as rights. Abroad, disinformation is punished by law, more strictly than in the USSR. In the USSR, however, the law has not yet been refined to this extent. So, the press often goes too far and gives people wrong ideas and prompts them to wrong actions.

Polyakov then mentions his membership in the Audiovisual Eureka International Society. He says the society is working on the concept of a single "European information space".

Socialist Workers' Party Programming Document

OW2810004791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A constituent conference of the Socialist Workers' Party opened in Moscow on Saturday [26 October]. A programmatic document of the organizing committee that includes USSR People's Deputy Anatoliy Denisov, Roy Medvedev, and RSFSR People's Deputy Ivan Rybkin says that the new party would be a successor to the CPSU and will seek "socialism and progress toward it."

The party will work to ensure the dominance of collective ownership forms in Russia, to teach entrepreneurs to be socially aware and is opposed to "imposing a total and predatory privatisation."

Poll Results Support Democracy, Yeltsin

924B0051A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 41, Oct 91 p 1

[Text] On 16 October, the Center for Social-Economic Research, TINNI-Sotsio, conducted a poll of residents of Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus. In a sampling representing the adult city population 1,175 persons were polled. Representative features: sex, age, social position, and education.

The poll results (in percentages) were distributed in the following way.

1. How do you evaluate the results of the activity of B.N. Yeltsin in his first hundred days in the post of president of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]?

a) negatively, he should resign—16 percent of those polled;
b) there are no real results, but Yeltsin is the only figure capable of holding this post—23 percent of those polled;
c) positively, he must continue to work in the post of president of Russia—35 percent of those polled;
d) I find it difficult to answer—26 percent.

At the same time, 13 percent of the respondents polled on the territory of the Ukraine and Belarus avoided answering a given question in connection with the fact that "This is a problem for Russia."

2. What, in your opinion, is more necessary for our country now: democracy or "a strong hand?"

a) democracy—51 percent of those polled;
b) "a strong hand"—35 percent of those polled;
c) I find it difficult to answer—14 percent.

3. What is more important to you: the purse or life?

Of those polled, 7 percent prefer the purse, and 71 percent, life; 17 percent declared approximately the following, "In our time, it is better not to live without a purse," and 5 percent of the respondents refused to answer this question.

Poll on Politician's Guiding Motives

OW2510082191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0745 GMT 25 Oct 91

[From the "Viewpoint" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the DATA News Agency, an opinion poll taken by the National Public Opinion Studies Center along with the "Public Opinion" Foundation last September among 1,943 respondents throughout the Russian Federation found that 5% believe most politicians in the USSR proceed in their activities from personal interests.

19% said politicians are guided by the interests of the state, 11%—by the interests of the people.

Only 3% think that leaders follow the voice of their conscience in their actions. 1% of those polled said that most leaders follow strictly the God's Testaments.

Almost ⅓ found it difficult to answer.

Asked by what politicians should be guided, 82% said "by the interests of the people," 38%—"by the interests of the state," 31%—"by the voice of conscience," and 4%—by the "faith in God."

The sum exceeds 100% since it was allowed to give several answers.

Sampling error—3%.

TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Oct

LD2610084891 Moscow TASS in English 0832 GMT 26 Oct 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Today's newspapers focus on the future of Russia and other Soviet republics, the pace of economic reforms and the nationalities question.

"The date of elections of local government heads, which has provoked confrontation between the Russian Republic president and the republican parliament, will no longer be an apple of discord," the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper said.

The Russian legislature said on Friday [25 October] a schedule of elections of local government officials should be worked out not later than December 1, 1991.

The newspaper also comments on the Russian law on indexation of people's incomes and savings in the Russian Federation.

It publishes black market prices on some food and manufactured products, stressing no changes in retail prices are planned by the Russian Committee for Prices.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper says Aleksandr Yakovlev, a member of the Soviet Presidential Political Council, will head a new team of Soviet experts at U.S.-Soviet negotiations on global stability.

The decision is an "outward reflection of Moscow's re-assessment of its policy with the United States and the West as a whole," the newspaper said.

It said the first round of talks is expected to begin in Washington in the middle of November.

Andrey Nechayev, deputy director of the Institute of Economic Policy of the Academy of the National Economy and the Soviet Academy of Sciences, told the Soviet trade union daily TRUD "I hope there won't be an economic war".

He believes the secession of republics from the Soviet Union will be painful but not fatal for Russia, while other republics will be thrown back into the past.

"Russia has everything necessary to reverse the negative tendencies in the near future and begin an ascent," Nechayev said. He believes it can happen next autumn.

The Soviet youth daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Yegor Gaydar, director of the Institute of Economic Policy.

Gaydar said that despite run-away inflation, prices will be freed in the country. He stressed the need for tax and export licensing reform.

"We'll have to take urgent measures to ensure Russia's political independence," Gaydar said.

Valentin Fedorov, Sakhalin governor speaks on the territorial dispute with Japan.

"Everything can be sold, including yourself. But not your motherland," Fedorov told the RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper.

"The Kuril Islands won't float anywhere, no matter how much Russian politicians may desire it," he said.

Yevgeniy Lisov, Russian prosecutor general, tells PRAVDA about the investigation into the activities of the August putsch plotters.

"By this December, the accused and their lawyers may familiarise themselves with the materials of the investigation," Lisov said.

Commenting on the German DER SPIEGEL magazine's publication about the investigation, Lisov said it could have been aimed against the Russian prosecutor general, his deputy and the team of prosecutors.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Vitaliy Shlykov, deputy head of the Russian Committee for Defence.

He believes the Soviet Union and the United States may cooperate in creating a global anti-missile defence system.

"The Soviet Union's strategic defence lags behind the United States', but the Soviet Union (Russia) needs an effective anti- missile system to ensure its security even now when there is no global confrontation with the United States," Shlykov said.

"Soviet designers could share their experience with the United States if they decide to join their efforts in this field," Shlykov said.

Commenting on the situation in South Ossetia, the newspaper said "General Dudayev is ready to cut 'the Caucasus knot'".

"Dudayev could be elected president of the Chechen Republic if the presidential elections in the republic canceled by the Russian parliament take place," the newspaper said.

"Everything will depend on Russia's moves. The whole Caucasus will rise should any aggression against the Chechen people occur," Dudayev, head of the executive committee of the Chechen Congress, told the Soviet military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

"I think not all peaceful means have been used yet," Dudayev said.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Petr Deinekin, Soviet Air Force commander, and his U.S. counterpart Merrill McPeak.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA publishes a letter from Yekaterina Kryuchkov, the wife of former KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, in which she denies her husband's involvement in the August putsch in the Soviet Union.

Sergey Shakhray, Russian president's adviser, stressed the need for a reform of the Russian legislative.

He told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA the present local governing councils should be reduced by ten times while all district bodies of power should be abolished.

He urged an end to the dual power in the republic, the Russian Congress and the republican parliament, and said the parliament should be not larger than 300-400 people.

Today's newspapers also discuss the situation in the Middle East, Yugoslavia, Latin America and South Africa.

Economic

Customs Committee's 'Program of Reorientation'

Food Imports Duties Lifted

LD2510225191 Moscow TASS in English 2047 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondents Nikolay Zheleznov and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—All customs duties on the imports of food, products for children and other necessities will be lifted before the new year. This is one of the main provisions of the programme of reorientation of the country's customs service aimed at filling the consumer market and promoting the economic reform. This programme was discussed on Friday [25 October] at a meeting of the USSR Economic Management Committee. It is actually a draft decree of the USSR president expected to be signed in November.

Explaining the need for opening the border to foreign consumer goods, Nikolay Yermakov, chairman of the USSR Customs Committee, said that over nine months of this year the export dropped by 26 per cent and import by 47. The lifting of customs duties is planned in order to arrest the catastrophic fall of the country's foreign trade volume, and, the main thing, to put enough consumer goods on the domestic market.

The lowering of prices of imported goods is expected on the Soviet domestic market as a result of these measures. The country's economy will begin to advance towards the world economy, and the rouble will be strengthened in the world turnover.

Further on Customs Policy

LD2610083191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0130 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] The latest session of the Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy took place in Moscow yesterday under the chairmanship of Ivan Stepanovich Silayev. Our correspondent, Valeriy Kiosa, reports:

[Kiosa] Perhaps one of the most interesting points on today's agenda was the discussion of proposals on changing customs policy in order to satisfy our consumer market. This rather bureaucratic phrase hides something that was quite recently the subject of stormy discussion in our press. It concerns the taxes and customs duty on the import of goods into our country. You may remember, respected listeners, how many angry words were uttered about the fact that the excessively high customs duty completely discouraged both enterprises

and ordinary people from importing the most essential goods into the country which were, incidentally, being purchased with their own money. This was the case despite the fact that today there are increasingly insufficient supplies of the most essential goods.

In response to this situation, the country's Customs Committee has proposed—and the Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy agreed—that the procedure for collecting this duty and these taxes be changed drastically. Only three days were allocated for making the final finishing touches to these proposals.

So what exactly is being proposed? That the import tax and customs duty on imports of foodstuffs and essential goods be completely abolished. Moreover, this applies to both enterprises and private citizens. Concerning other goods which Soviet people may import from abroad—with the exeception of what are called luxury goods—the customs duty will be abolished if these are bought for private use. If they are being imported for trade, then the duty will be reduced by one third. Incidentally, after the session, one of the committee leaders asked where the boundary is drawn, as it were, between a commercial quantity and that which is necessary for personal use? The answer was this: Sometimes a commercial quantity can be allowed to pass through without duty; the main thing is for goods to get into the country. Not all of those participating in the session agreed with these proposals: The Ministry of Finance, in particular, opposed them, but no one supported the ministry.

The Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy also discussed another issue today: The establishment of a temporary customs control system on Russia and Belorussia's administrative-territorial borders with the Baltic states. Yermakov, the leader of the customs committee, noted in his report that such a system already exists on the Baltic states' side, and this has negative consequences for Russia and Belorussia. For this reason, it has been proposed that a temporary customs border be introduced, that the movement of goods be regulated in accordance with the existing customs rules, and, at the same time—temporarily—the accepted international trade practices with regard to customs duty will not be employed. It is expected that all of these temporary measures will operate until the interstate talks with the Baltic countries are finished.

After discussing these proposals, a decision was adopted to entrust the customs committee to present Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia with the agreed-upon proposals on the formation of a customs infrastructure on the administrative-territorial borders of the Baltic states.

Decline in 1992 Production Output Inevitable

LD2610091191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1640 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondents Nikolay Zheleznov and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—The rates of decline in output in 1992 will depend on various factors, but the decline itself will be impossible to avert. This was said today by Aleksandr Troshin, USSR first deputy minister of the economy, when he presented his forecast of how the economy will perform next year to a meeting of the Committee for Operational Management of the National Economy.

The Union Economy Ministry has put forward three forecasts for 1992. The first—the "pessimistic" one—is based on the premise that the process of all the republics joining the Economic Community Treaty will proceed slowly until the second quarter of 1992. In this case, Troshin said, GNP will shrink by 14 percent, compared with 12 percent in 1991, the budget deficit will amount to 500 billion rubles (R), and the number of unemployed may rise from three to 25 million.

The second variant—the "relatively optimistic" scenario—is based on the premise that all the republics will conclude the treaty very soon, economic links will be established by the start of 1992, and, also possible, imports will amount to R8.3 billion. "But even under this variant it will not be possible to curb the decline in output," Troshin said. He noted, however, that GNP would shrink by 5 percent and unemployment would be held at 4 million. The budget deficit would amount to R389 billion (for 1991 it is expected to be R240 billion).

The third variant is the disaster option. "If all the current negative trends continue," Aleksandr Troshin noted, "disintegration of the economy will ensue, along with a double slump in output, hyperinflation, and unpredictable social upheavals." The Committee for Operational Management of the National Economy expressed the view that the economy is most likely to develop "somewhere midway between the first and second variants." It was noted also that 25 million unemployed in 1992 is a grossly inflated figure.

Committee To Increase Foreign Food Supplies

LD2710021891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Last week, the leadership of the Interrepublican Economic Committee examined some fundamentally new approaches to the problem of ensuring food supplies for the republics. It has become known that this entails massive increases in the availability of foreign foodstuffs and the simultaneous liberalization of prices. In the view of experts, such actions would curtail an exponential growth in prices of domestic food items and provide an unconventional incentive for increasing output of these items in all areas of the economic community. A group of experts from the committee and from foreign partners has been given the job of devising a mechanism to implement this action.

Additional Western Food Credits Urged

Appeal Made

OW2810083991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soviet Union appealed to leading Western countries last week for additional $7-8 bln worth of food credits and humanitarian aid, Soviet diplomats told INTERFAX news agency

The Interrepublican Economic Committee is expected to handle the distribution and repayment of credits.

Western Aid Considered Essential

LD2810114191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Report by correspondent A. Lutskiy]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The DATA information agency has reported the results of an all-union sociological survey which shows that 39 percent of the population believe that we will not be able to survive without Western support, and only eight percent are categorically against accepting aid.

Unemployment Problem, 'Menacing Proportions'

OW2510183491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Unemployment on the former territory of the USSR could take on menacing proportions in 1992, leaving 20-25 million people without work if the leaders of the sovereign republics do not rapidly cooperate with enterprises to sign economic treaties. By the end of this year there will be 3 million unemployed. This information came from the head of the union Ministry of Economics, Aleksandr Troshin, at a meeting on Friday of the Committee of Operational Management of the Economy.

He stated that presently only 10 of economic treaties have been signed, (by the end of October last year already 70 had been signed).

Mr. Troshin suggested two different forecasts created by his ministry for the development of the economy in 1992, a pessimistic forecast and an optimistic forecast. As the "Interfax" correspondent reports, neither forecast predicts growth in the economy.

According to the "optimistic" forecast, (if the agreements between enterprises are signed) then GNP may only fall by 5

in comparison with 1990. Oil exports will not exceed 30 million tons, and the hard currency revenues from such exports will be a little over 8 billion gold rubles. Unemployment would fluctuate between 3 and 4 million people.

The "pessimistic" forecast predicts that GNP will fall by 14

, and that only 14 million tons of oil are exported with the earnings from them at a little over 6 billion gold rubles.

Aleksandr Troshin stated that in either case, it was necessary to take measures to stabilize the financial system. In particular, he suggested the introduction in January 1992 of a tax on 45

of enterprises' profits, excise duties from the production of the most essential goods, and also tax regulation of enterprises' resources used in production. In Mr. Troshin's words, this, along with active privatization and the distribution of government property could bring the budget 310 billion rubles of revenues.

Economic Ministry Forecasts

OW2810085191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Forecasts by the economics ministry in Moscow say the Soviet Union's GNP will shrink by 14%, oil exports fall down to 14 million tonnes and between 20 and 25 million people will be out of jobs next year. A more optimistic forecast predicts a 5% slump in GNP, 30 million tonnes of oil exports, and a jobless rate of 3-4 million if the republican plants manage to sign contracts until the year is out. The ministry puts the number of deals signed by now at lO% against 70% in previous years.

However, Russia's economic minister, Yevgeniy Saburov, put to question the unemployment figures of 20-25 million. Speaking in an interview with INTERFAX news agency, he said there were mechanisms to cushion the effect of unemployment.

Indices Reveal Continuing Crisis

OW2410064491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2130 GMT 23 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report" feature: "Soviet Economy Has Yet To Find Incentives To Fuel Growth"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Economic indices in January through September of 1991 contain no indication that the Soviet economic crisis has bottomed out.

Over the nine months, national income dropped 13% and industrial production, 9%. Foreign trade has brought a dismal 61.9% of the revenues the Soviet Union received from exports during the same period last year.

Basic Industries are the Hardest Hit

According to the Macroecon think tank, national income is likely to drop 14% to 15% in 1991 from last year's level.

Economic data indicates that industrial decline has found a floor of sorts, and in June and September production did not fall faster than during the second quarter. Significantly, industrial production dropped the fastest in Georgia, where it fell by 22% as compared with the same nine months last year, and Moldova (7%), i.e., the most politically unstable republics.

The worst drop is in steel (7%), chemistry and lumber (6.1%), the agroindustrial complex (7.5%) and the consumer industry (7%).

Economic Ties are Disintegrating

The production decline stems, in broad terms, from the uncertainly as to how and in which forms the economy will function in the economic community the former Soviet republics are establishing, in particular as some of the republics are seeking complete economic independence.

But there also are more immediate causes of the slumping produotion, viz., a collapsed monetary and fiscal system; ruptured foreign economic ties; a disintegration of industrial organisation and supply system—all that in the absence of new, market-based, mechanisms.

As a result, during the nine months to October this year producers did not deliver 4.7% of their output to the industrial consumers, i.e., the number of broken contracts rose nearly threefold from last year. Nearly 50% of all enterprises in steel, chemistry and lumber did not deliver on their contracts.

The resultant supply bottlenecks caused shift-long or longer work stoppages at some 1,000 industrial enterprises every month, with 16 million work days lost in the industrial sector.

The rapidly shrinking exports of foreign-made raw materials and components hit the chemistry and lumber industry, the light industry and the production of high-tech consumer goods the hardest.

More and More Prices are Freed

A reform of wholesale prices, which was launched in early 1991, has affected the financial standing of many enterprises in that they acquired a right to sell their output on the free market, but the advantages of this arrangement vary from industry to industry.

At present nearly half of the industrial products are sold at "contractual" prices (that is, set by bargaining between the producer and the supplier). As a result, the wholesale price index is 2.17 as compared with the level during the same period last year. The steepest, 2.5-fold, price rise was in the consumer and food industries, and the lowest, 1.9-fold, in energy, ferrous metallurgy and engineering.

A 2.4 to 2.5-fold price rise is expected by the end of 1991 from last year, and when prices have been liberalised, they are likely to soar in successive jumps until they reach the world level, depending on the rate at which the ruble will trade to the dollar.

Market Mechanisms are Idle Yet

The emerging market and the new economic forms have yet to make a tangible impact on industrial production. For example, all cooperative ventures accounted for a mere 0.5 of the total output of consumer goods during the first half year.

Work motivation, a product of the market which is capable of giving production a shot in the arm, has yet to take shape. Enterprises allocate increasing quantities of resources for consumption while pay is now nearly unconnected with work results and is largely tied to the rising minimum living wage.

At the same time long-term capital investment assets shrinks, which in time will make equipment at Soviet enterprises outrageously obsolete and preclude any chance for them to turn out quality goods, a key to the world market.

The consumer market, with a deferred demand of 300 billion rubles and still growing due to the erection of customs barriers by some of the republics, is in desperate shape. Switching to market-based ties could dampen the "customs war" between individual territories and give a breather to the consumer market as producers would find it more profitable to produce commodities.

According to Macroecon, the continuing industrial free fall is yet another proof of the need for speedier economic reforms and the rapid introduction of efficient market-based economic management mechanisms (prices, taxes, budget regulation).

Public Surveyed on Lower Standard of Living

OW2610141291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0857 GMT 26 Oct 91

[From "Viewpoint"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The "Data" news agency reports that last August the National Public Opinion Center took a survey of 3,004 respondents throughout the country asking them what, in their opinion, may lead to lowering of the standard of living.

23% fear cuts in salaries.
19% apprehend the reduction of jobs at their enteprise or even its closure.
16% think income may fall after retirement of some of their family members.
1 out of 10 fears to lose an extra iob.

7% believe family circumstances may lead to the loss of job and therefore to the decline in the standard of living.
31% found it difficult to anser.
Sampling error - 3

Military

Shaposhnikov on Control of Nuclear Weapons

LD2710224891 Moscow TASS in English
2225 GMT 27 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Riabikin]

[Text] Moscow October 27 TASS—"There is every reason to think that nuclear weapons will not spread to separate republics. They will be controlled from the single centre," Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov told TASS on Saturday [26 October].

All republics agree that pledges to the West and other partners must be honoured. This applies both to strategic and tactical weapons.

The Armed Forces in republics, the minister pointed out, are presently subordinate to the Soviet defence minister. However, republics of the former Soviet Union are now making decisions at variance with the decisions made by the Fifth Congress of the People's Deputies, empowering the USSR State Council and the president of the USSR to deal with problems of defence, international relations and law enforcement. According to Shaposhnikov, republics should coordinate all decisions on defence with the State Council.

The minister said he saw his own task in averting the involvement of Armed Forces in conflicts caused by political ambitions of one or another leader. The military-strategic space will remain intact even when the old Union disintegrates. A good way out of the present complex situation, Shaposhnikov believes, is to announce the transitional period and establish a defence union of sovereign states for the duration of this period.

Taking into account the fact that many republics are now making decisions concerning their citizens' service on their own territory, the minister said, the Armed Forces can only be saved from complete disintegration by organizing service on a contractual basis, that is a mixed principle of forming armed forces with orientation towards professionalism. "We have a programme for this and it will be submitted to the State Council very soon," Shaposhnikov said.

Russian, Ukrainian Nuclear Exchange 'Impossible'

OW2810090991 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0803 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Reports by Diplomatic Panorama's M. Mayorov and I. Porshev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature for "October 25, 1991"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An exchange of nuclear strikes between Russia and the Ukraine is "technically impossible," said a leading expert of the USSR Foreign Ministry who has been lately at work on the preparation of a Soviet-U.S. treaty on strategic offensive arms on October 25. According to him, numerous technological and programmatic constraints place rigid limits on the length of a missile's flight path.

To shorten this path, a missile's engine must be stopped in mid-air, which is impossible. The pitch angle programme cannot be changed to suit the shortened flight path because a missile's strength would not allow it to take a turn during the powered-flight phase.

Intercontinental ballistic missiles cannot be used against nearby targets; if they could, they would have a different appellation, said the USSR Foreign Ministry expert.

'Largest Nuclear Accident' in Navy Revealed

LD2510125891 Moscow TASS in English
1242 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Ten people were killed and many exposed to dangerous radiation levels in 1985 in the largest nuclear accident in the Soviet Navy over the past 30 years, according to a newspaper report revealing the disaster for the first time.

The trade union daily TRUD said today the catastrophe took place at the Defence Ministry's Shkotovo-22 ship-repair facility in the Maritime Territory on the Pacific coast on August 10, 1985.

The accident occurred at noon during the replacement of a reactor core on a nuclear submarine.

A routine operation required every five years, it also needs extreme caution not to disturb the protective lattice almost right under the reactor cover. Should the lattice, containing radioactive fuel and high-temperature water under high pressure, be shifted, a nuclear reaction gets under way.

Describing what happened after the reactor cover began to be lifted, TRUD said:

"The reactor cover was slowly creeping upwards when it suddenly went askew, knocking against the lattice. The reaction started." High-pressure, super-heated steam broke loose from the reactor depths, hitting the cover with great force.

"The ship-repair yards shuddered from a powerful explosion. Everyone rushed to see what had happened. What they saw were flames and brown fumes bursting from gaping holes in the crippled sub."

Three hours later radiation meters, designed to register emissions of up to 600 roentgens, read off scale, TRUD said.

It added that later studies found that radiation levels during the accident reached 90,000 roentgens per hour

and those who fought the blaze or happened to be nearby received at least 30 to 40 rems each.

"The fire was put out in one and a half to two hours and a terrible picture presented itself: the submarine was half- submerged; the one-tonne reactor cover was thrown "about 100 meters by the explosion almost to the other side of the bay; radioactive fuel seeped into the water and sank; ten people, who were on board the sub, were torn into little pieces."

Military commanders arriving on the scene of the tragedy, TRUD continued, ordered the place to be tidied up and the facility to be back in operation by the beginning of the following week.

They also ordered the nuclear accident to be officially described as a thermal explosion, and all military service personnel and civilian employees at the facility had to sign a pledge not to reveal the disaster.

TRUD said that a proper burial ground for the contaminated submarine was not even constructed in view of the rush to resume work as soon as possible. Instead, three deep pits were dug in the hills near the settlement housing the facility's staff and their families, and the radioactive wreckage was dumped there.

Baltics Withdrawal Not Before 1994

LD2510115591 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The Soviet Forces will not leave the Baltics before 1994. This was stated by General Valeriy Manilov, chief of the information department at the USSR Defense Ministry, to the Baltic News Service. He said Soviet Forces will be withdrawn from the Baltic states only after their final withdrawal from Eastern Europe—Germany and Poland—which means after 1994. Manilov added that this will be so on the condition that social problems connected with military resettlement are resolved. In the opinion of General Manilov it is too early to speak of where the Soviet Army will withdraw to from the Baltics and whether its weaponry will be handed over to the Baltic states.

Manilov was here referring to the fact that relevant treaties between the USSR and the Baltic states have not yet been concluded.

Comments on Need for New Military Doctrine

Chief of Staff Lobov

PM2310105291 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA n Russian 23 Oct 91 First Edition pp 1-2

[Report on interview with Army General V. Lobov, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, by correspondent Major A. Yegorov—date, place of interview not given: "Policy, Doctrine, and Strategy in a Changing World: Army General Vladimir Lobov on Military Reform"]

[Text] In KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's mail there are a good many letters the main point of which could be formulated in this question: How is military reform perceived by Army General V. Lobov, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, who spoke of the need for it back in 1985?

Our correspondent Major A. Yegorov met with Doctor of Military Sciences Professor V. Lobov and asked him that question.

In his answer, the chief of General Staff said that he first thought about the need for military reform long before 1985—somewhere in the second half of the seventies. And it was at that time that the first attempt was made to demonstrate the expediency of reform.

Today work is in progress on a new version which, in the view of the chief of General Staff, is a comprehensively well-regulated document incorporating enormous experience of military building in our country, a document whose central focus would without fail be the military man. Especially the young officer, whose life is difficult today. Delaying the transformations is worse than impermissible, Army Gen. Lobov believes.

This is also demonstrated by an analysis of the military-political situation in the world (the trend toward the lessening of international tension and the resolution of contentious issues by peaceful means), the domestic situation in the country (democratic processes on the one hand, and on the other—economic crisis, political instability, interethnic conflicts, and attempts to break up the Armed Forces), and the state of the Armed Forces (forces that are considerably below strength, the poor social protection of servicemen, the decline in the prestige of military service, and so forth).

So how does Doctor of Military Sciences Professor V. Lobov, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, see military reform? What time scale does he consider realistic for its implementation? We publish the answers to these questions, with one reservation which we make at Vladimir Nikolayevich's own request: The thoughts here set forth for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers in no way claim to be the definitive truth, and are therefore of the nature of proposals for possible discussion.

Why We Need a New Military Doctrine

It is well known that any reform requires scientific and theoretical substantiation. In relation to the defense sphere, this means first and foremost the formulation of a military doctrine.

In my view it is necessary today to approach the task of defining its main tenets in a new way, on the basis of an analysis of recent events. Namely: the radical transformations in Eastern Europe, the breakup of the Warsaw Pact Organization, the withdrawal of troops from the territory of our former European allies, the proclamation of independence by Soviet republics, and the complex political and economic problems that confront them.

In this context the new doctrine, it seems to me, should differ radically from the tenets of the doctrine of building a military organization whose traditional purpose is to achieve the state's political goals by military means. Military doctrine in the nuclear age is, in my view, first and foremost the doctrine of the prevention of war and the peaceful resolution of interstate conflicts on the basis of the paramountcy of panhuman values.

That is why, in formulating military doctrine, a number of important points should be borne in mind.

First and foremost, it must be acknowledged that the USSR's existing military doctrine has fallen hopelessly behind the changes that have recently taken place in our country and outside it.

It is therefore necessary not merely to modify or improve the existing doctrine, but to carry out a radical revision. This is also needed because the well-known document adopted in May 1987 by the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee, which is to this day deemed to be our state military doctrine, is, on closer examination, no such thing. It contains only hints, a kind of outline of individual doctrinal tenets, mainly of a political nature. The military side of the doctrine—its military-strategic, military-technical, military-economic, military-legal, and certain other aspects—were either passed over, or were not formulated with any thoroughness.

It seems to me that our state's military doctrine should be derived from objective military-strategic realities and existing and future defense objectives and priorities. Because it has to answer these questions: What are our pan-national and national interests in the defense sphere? Who, today and in the foreseeable future, will be the state's potential enemy, who its ally in possible military conflicts and in international operations involving the use of force with the sanction of the world community? On the basis of these interests, what are the objectives of military policy and the whole spectrum of basic tasks to be resolved within its framework? What are the ways and means of resolving these tasks?

The answers to these questions, formulated on a democratic basis, should be enshrined legislatively in the country's constitution, the Law on Defense, and other supreme legal acts.

I think the nucleus of the structure and content of the renewed doctrine should consist of the principles of prevention of both external (interstate) and internal (interethnic, civil) wars involving the use of both means of mass destruction and conventional means. It should deal with the prevention of not only large-scale wars, but also armed conflicts of any intensity; not only the prevention and averting of wars (conflicts), but also their localization and the resolution of conflicts that it has proved impossible to prevent; finally, preemptive actions in latent phases of seats of tension.

In other words, a reliable, efficiently operating mechanism should be developed for the prevention of war and global monitoring [kontrol] of the military activity of all states, directed both outward (interstate relations) and inward (intersocietal, interethnic, and interterritorial relations).

In the new military doctrine it is also necessary to overcome isolation in relation to the national and regional doctrines of other states and those military-political alliances that still exist. The doctrine must be agreed on a supranloc, nonconfrontational basis; national, regional, and international aspects of ensuring security must be balanced and linked. Here it is essential to take into account a fact that has become self-evident, namely that in the age of global dangers and the increasingly integrated nature of the world community, strictly self-contained, purely national military doctrines are becoming a thing of the past.

The doctrine being formulated should also perhaps reflect the fact that in the resolution of specific global or regional crisis situations the armed forces of other states could act as allies, and our Armed Forces could enter into a coalition (temporarily, for the duration of the tasks set by the world community). I repeat, this thesis may appear to be hypothetical. But the fact that such external functions cannot be ruled out is demonstrated by the experience of the crisis situation in the Persian Gulf region.

Another important feature of the new doctrine should be the eradication of superimposed class and party elements. Class and party interests should give way to pan-national interests, and that should restore us all to a normal, civilized, humanist vision and perception of the world.

A fundamentally different approach to the formulation of our military doctrine is also required by the present sociopolitical situation within the country. It clearly cannot be, as in the past, a single doctrine for all the union republics, united by a common military-political and geopolitical space. With the emergence of republic military formations and military structures, specific military-political concepts and doctrinal principles will doubtless also arise. The country's single military doctrine, since such a doctrine is an objective necessity, will no doubt have to reflect not only what is generally recognized by all the components of the new state formation, but also the particular features of their approaches to defense problems.

And another thing. Our doctrine should become the doctrine of not only the Army, but the country. It would be sensible for it to include provisions on the following topics:

—questions of the development and utilization of the Armed Forces;
—the development and functioning of the country's defense industry complex;
—the utilization of material and human resources in the interests of defense;

—the state's military-political activity in interstate and intra-Union relations.

It must also be recognized that there has hitherto been no correlation between our officially proclaimed defensive goals and the offensive thrust of operational-strategic principles in the sphere of military art and the development and combat training of troops and naval forces.

Consequently the military doctrine of the renewed state should enshrine the optimum correlation between the potential of the national economy and the quantitative and qualitative condition of the Armed Forces and define the limits of defense sufficiency in such a way as to rule out not only an insufficiency of forces and resources for ensuring the country's reliable security, but also an excess.

The following conclusion can be derived from the above: The country's new military doctrine is perceived as a doctrine promoting the resolution of a twofold task—to build a system of regional and international security, and to ensure the country's nationwide security on the basis of the preservation and radical restructuring of its single military-political space.

Strategy Cannot Be a Departmental Matter

Of course, the successful resolution of such a complex task will require a major reinterpretation of all the basic categories of military thinking, not only doctrine, but policy, strategy, and tactics. Policy—in this case, defense policy—as a means of achieving state objectives in the defense sphere will be given concrete expression in the doctrine.

As for strategy... I believe that the formulation of up-to-date strategic principles will require a certain breaking of stereotypes. In my view strategy is ceasing to be the province of the military, and should therefore be transferred to the jurisdiction of structures responsible for ensuring a unified system of national security and defense of the country. What is the explanation for this? It is that strategy, as the basis of any doctrine, today takes the form of an aggregate of ideas and views in several spheres simultaneously: economics, politics, diplomacy, military science. The ideas that meet most fully and appropriately the common state task of ensuring national security. The doctrinaire attitude to strategy which was current among us until recently, and the unjustified narrowing of strategy to the status of a component of the military art, is completely impermissible. Otherwise our strategy cannot be balanced, flexible, resolute, and economically viable. In the context of the increasing limitations on military resources, in strategy we feel an increasingly acute need for a new concept of strategic thinking, making provision for stepping up the role of economic, political, and diplomatic resources, which are cheaper and moreover reduce the threat of the outbreak of war. And this is also evidence that departmental control of strategy is completely impermissible, and that the realization of the state's military doctrine should take place through a single coordinating body—the Security Council, where new strategic ideas will emerge and be realized.

And finally, tactics—our actions today and tomorrow, whose objective is the stage-by-stage, concrete resolution of strategic tasks. Tactics which require economic provision and the allocation of the necessary resources.

Demilitarization of Society Needed

In the context of the present economic difficulties, the question of the optimum utilization of resources allocated by the republics to defense is acute. As regards the financing of Armed Forces activity, not all is yet clear. However, it is indisputable that in military development it is necessary not verbally, but in practice to reorient ourselves toward the qualitative parameters of defense: to equip the troops with new generations of arms and combat equipment, to considerably increase servicemen's professionalism, to improve operational training of command personnel and staffs, and to make wide use of the latest achievements of science in military matters and in the resolution of social programs.

How can this goal be achieved, if the coffers contain only a very limited sum? I think there is a solution. It lies in the demilitarization of our society.

What does this mean?

It means that the Armed Forces should incorporate structurally only those components that directly make up the system of defense capability. That means branches and categories of troops financed from the state budget. All the remaining "noncombat" militarized components—civil defense, military commissariats, military sports and defense societies, internal troops, border troops, construction troops, and railroad troops—should, in my view, be removed from the Armed Forces structure and redistributed between the new center and the sovereign republics. Equipped with modern, mobile search-and-rescue and construction equipment, the construction and railroad troops, civil defense, and military sports and defense societies will obviously be able to provide for themselves in the new conditions of economic management.

The border and internal troops and military commissariats could be armed with light weapons and equipment, since this is appropriate to the nature of these subunits' guard and militia functions. But the uniform, regalia, and paraphernalia should, I think, be different from those of the Armed Forces. Nor do they need military ranks and posts. They need economic accountability.

An extremely important question is the creation of armed formations in the republics. This process must be given a clear legal status. Otherwise we may violate fundamental principles of international agreements on armed forces and armaments. That cannot be allowed.

And, of course, the country's nuclear missile potential and the monitoring of its utilization. In view of the

importance of this question and its sensitive international aspect, it is necessary to determine where the country's nuclear potential will be concentrated and who will control it. It seems to me that with a view to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons or their unsanctioned utilization, it is necessary to concentrate the entire nuclear missile potential on the territory of the one republic that has the largest territory, population, and economic and strategic potential. That is to say, in Russia. (But this certainly should not mean that the other republics will not have a right to effective monitoring of the functioning of the nuclear missile potential.) The Nonproliferation Treaty must be observed.

So I think it would be correct if the republics that have chosen to secede from the Union were to announce their nuclear-free status via an appropriate legal treaty mechanism with clear international verification and were to sign treaties banning the production and siting of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, and delivery systems for them. Such a procedure would ensure the "status quo" of existing agreements on limiting strategic offensive arms. But the appearance of new members of the "nuclear club" would inevitably destabilize the international situation, would wreck existing treaties on nuclear arms and those now being elaborated, and would provoke other countries to obtain their own nuclear missile potentials.

The swift internal political changes also place the following issue on the agenda: Will the new military doctrine be the aggregate of the military doctrines of sovereign, totally independent states? Or will it be a united doctrine integrating both republics' national interests and their common interests?

It is perfectly obvious that each republic, on the basis of its own national interests, can have its own military doctrines and, like the form in which participation in the new Union is defined, a choice of forms of participation in the renewed Armed Forces is possible. The specific content of a republic's doctrine will presumably also determine the specific form of the republic's participation in military organizational development and administration of the state's armed forces. Each republic can form its own armed formations (which I think should weighed up a thousand times: Given the exacerbation of territorial and border questions, will not their existence lead to interethnic, interstate, and interrepublic armed conflicts—the temptation to use military force will be all too great), and in this case their activity will clearly be coordinated with the central organs of military leadership. One possible option is this: Within its own armed formations a republic may have some forces and means that will be operationally subordinate to the command of the country's unified defensive forces. The composition of these forces and means and their quantitative and qualitative characteristics for each republic would have to be determined by the Union treaty or a special agreement on the basis of principles of parity, in my view.

Naturally, via an appropriate legal mechanism the republics taking a "shared" part in the organizational development of the country's unified defensive forces would have the right to actively participate in administration of the new Armed Forces.

Another possible option would be for the Armed Forces leadership to be formed from among military leaders elected (appointed) in each republic and specially delegated to the "center" to represent the defense interests of each individual republic there. This option is most attractive, since it would make it possible to remove many issues. The need to hold various consultations and conferences on purely practical military questions connected with the everyday life of the Armed Forces (exercises, troop movements, changes in places of deployment and basing points, and so forth) would disappear. And the republics would be abreast of all questions connected with the activity of the Army and Navy via their representatives in the supreme leadership organ of the state's Armed Forces.

Right now it is difficult to say which of these options will be adopted. Because for this it will be necessary to dismantle a whole "barrier" of glaring legal, political, military, and other problems. However, it has to be said that there are also considerable purely organizational difficulties in elaborating the basic principles of a defense treaty as a component part of the Union treaty. It is high time that practical work was conducted simultaneously with theoretical work. To achieve this all the interested parties should sit down as soon as possible at the negotiating table and resolve the necessary questions. Especially as today there are already many interesting, original ideas concerning, in particular, the reform of the Armed Forces and its main directions.

In outline these are approximately as follows:

Main Directions of the Reform of the Armed Forces

Sharing military administration

This would be done administratively in the Defense Ministry via a system of committees and operationally via the General Staff and the staffs of branches of the Armed Forces. It is logical to envisage collaboration via an institution of mutual representation. Here the Defense Ministry is envisioned as a civilian department with functions of supporting the Armed Forces. It is envisaged to create republic defense ministries or state committees for defense and national guard units.

In this case it is proposed to have unified Armed Forces, and instead of military districts a republic system of military administrative division is planned. In addition, it is planned to reduce the branches of the Armed Forces to four—Strategic Deterrent Forces, Ground Defense Forces, Air Forces, and Navy—while also reorganizing the central apparatus.

Another possible option differs fundamentally from the first option in that the Armed Forces form part of the

Defense Ministry with the status of a committee. There could be several committees (military policy and economics, equipment orders, arms and research and development, budget and finance, and so forth), and also the Armed Forces proper, consisting of four branches—the Strategic Deterrent Forces, Ground Defense Forces, Air Forces, and Navy. It is envisaged to create republic defense ministries and reorganize the central apparatus. The strict hierarchical subordination from top to bottom presupposes ensuring reliable administration of the Armed Forces, while they would be monitored by the supreme organs of state power of the Union and the republics.

Clarifying the country's military administrative division

I think that as early as the end of next year it would be correct to change the "layout" of military districts on the basis of the principle that "a republic is a military district." This would facilitate closer collaboration. Where it is impossible to maintain a district (the Transcaucasus, Central Asia), military leadership could be exercised via the commander of the forces stationed on the territory of these republics. Collaboration would be via the relevant republic defense committees.

Changing forces' table of organization

It seems advisable to switch before 1995 from an army structure to a corps structure and from divisional organization to brigade organization, which will probably make it possible to reduce the cost of maintaining forces by streamlining and optimizing the complements of these structures and will provide a chance of enhancing their combat potential. At the same time there should be a switch to the uniform equipment of formations, units, and subunits with arms and hardware, which would facilitate the professionalization of the forces while simultaneously increasing personnel's professionalism.

Changing the Armed Forces' system of manpower acquisition

A mixed system of manpower acquisition based on the principle of combining the drafting of citizens for military service with contract-based service could be introduced as early as 1 January 1992.

By gradually increasing the percentage of volunteers, the number of them in the forces could be raised to several hundred thousand by as early as 1995.

As for draftees' period of compulsory military service, it could be reduced to 18 months from fall of next year and to even less after 1995.

It is proposed to train personnel to fill posts as junior commanders and specialists via 5 or 6-month courses within the existing network of study units. Remaining personnel would be trained actually in the combat forces at 1-month or 3-month training sessions on the basis of specially elaborated programs.

Special attention must be paid to the professional training of young officers, who bear the main burden of work directly with people and combat equipment. The new-type military schools will have to train officers with all-round military knowledge capable of working in any troop collective with any military hardware within the branch of the Armed Forces. The modern officer must have the opportunity to constantly improve his knowledge in the country's higher educational institutions (according to his professional profile) and also, where necessary, abroad. Officers must be given material incentives, and not merely symbolic ones, to want to acquire an additional military speciality, professional skills, or academic degree, to learn a foreign language, or to publish a scientific work. The index of the modern officer's intellectual potential must without fail be added to the criteria for his official assessment. Figuratively speaking, the reform must raise a qualitatively new generation of officers capable of accepting the challenge of the time with dignity.

It is also necessary to clarify military-technical policy

The switch to market relations requires the clarification of arms programs adapted to the new economic conditions and a review of the entire system of ordering and purchasing arms. Parallelism and duplication of research and development and disproportions in the pace of development of different branches of the Armed Forces must be excluded.

It has to be taken into account that in the industrially developed countries of the world research and development in the military sphere has recently acquired a tendency toward obtaining a "flexible" product, that is, technologies and technical ideas that can be used in both the military and civilian economies. This makes it possible to make research and development more efficient and economical and to release some financial resources to resolve social programs in the Armed Forces. I think we have something to learn here.

The changed nature of modern weapons dialectically entails a need for new views regarding their development, creation, and introduction. It can be assumed that not absolutely all the results of research and development can be implemented in specific defense programs. It is possible that we will create and build up a database, a kind of "state reserve of defense technologies" (which have not reached the stage of series production but display a high degree of potential readiness for it). This is a kind of "technological deterrence" and an additional element in a modern strategy.

Reorganization of the military scientific work of the system of military educational establishments

In my view, it would be correct to impart a greater practical orientation to military scientific work. The priority should be promising research and experimental design work and basic scientific research.

For this to become a reality, it seems advisable to optimize not only the study process but also the very system of military educational establishments, maybe by reducing the number of them.

The faster solution of servicemen's social problems is vital

A good pace has now been adopted in this sphere: Base pay and allowances have been considerably increased and income tax has been abolished. This pace must not be slackened. Therefore we must accelerate the adoption of legislative acts concerning the Armed Forces and more actively seek forms of social protection for servicemen.

Today we must all try to anticipate events in our work, Army General V. Lobov said, summing up his remarks. I would like to believe that these reflections and ideas accord with the imperative of the time to some extent.

Information Chief Manilov

PM2210161391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Oct 91 Second Edition p 1

[Account of interview with chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Information Directorate Lieutenant General Valeriy Manilov by TASS correspondent O. Moskovskiy: "From the USSR Defense Ministry—To Stop Soldiers Dying"]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Oct—The Ministry of Defense is preparing a package of legislative acts—in particular on defense, military service, and the status of servicemen; military regulations and the text of the Military Oath are being revised. Lieutenant General Valeriy Manilov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Information Directorate, announced that all of this will promote either directly or indirectly a radical solution to the problem of peacetime deaths and injury among servicemen. Today he gave an interview to a TASS correspondent in connection with the ministry leadership's practical measures in this area.

It is Valeriy Manilov's opinion that this difficult work's main element must be to remove the preconditions and causes of death and injury among soldiers, sailors, sergeants, petty officers, and officers. To this end, alongside measures on a national scale, concrete steps are being taken in the Army and Navy which primarily guarantee the democratization of military life; the establishment within Army and Navy collectives of an atmosphere of respect for the individual, honor, and dignity; and the certainty of a just punishment according to law for any crime against the person. "It is natural that efforts should be pooled: The Army is a part of society and this problem cannot be solved in the military department alone," the general noted.

Valeriy Manilov believes that it is necessary to fundamentally change the system of military service, increase the operational security of technical systems and weapons, raise the prestige of military service both among young people and among officer personnel, and resolve more effectively the question of the social and legal protection of the military and their families. The general considers that the country is virtually bereft of laws defending the life and health of servicemen, their honor and dignity. "Often a young man enters the Army and Navy without any basic military professional training, and until recently—before the defense minister's order—sometimes chronically ill. It is here that a lot of the damage was done," he said.

General Manilov named the professionalization of the Armed Forces within the framework of military reform as one of the ministry's practical steps for preventing death and injury among the military. Highlighting the main points, he said that after a compulsory six-month training period in a training subdivision each soldier or sailor will be offered the chance to conclude a contract for a period of from three to five years with the appropriate status, material security, and the possibility of subsequently extending this contract. Those who do not wish to conclude such a contract will serve the remaining 12 months and then retire into the reserve.

Radio Commentary

LD2610104291 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Commentary by Boris Belitskiy]

[Text] One point on which there appears to be complete agreement is that the Soviet military doctrine must be rid of all the elements of class or party thinking. Class and party interests must give way to national interests. As Army General Vladimir Lobov, the chief of the General Staff, has said, this is essential for a return to a normal civilized and humanitarian perception of the world.

It's a fact that when the Red Army emerged victorious from the civil war back in the early Twenties some of its leaders found it difficult to call off, to abandon, offensive strategies and to switch their thinking exclusively to the task of defending the country against external aggression. Indeed at the congress of the Communist International in 1923 there was even talk of the right of a proletarian state to Red intervention. And although all such thinking was subsequently officially repudiated, the Soviet war in Afghanistan was again to some extent prompted by class and party thinking.

This, however, does not mean that the Soviet military doctrine must be national in the sense of being exclusively inward looking, insular, and divorced from international developments. It has been pointed out in the course of the present debate that in our age of global dangers and a growing integrity of the world community the Soviet military doctrine must provide for possible action in a coalition designed to maintain peace. This would definitely be a novel feature of the Soviet military doctrine, dictated by the experience of the Persian Gulf crisis. But perhaps the most important comment that's

being made in the course of the coming debate is the point that in our nuclear age the country's military doctrine must above all be a doctrine aimed as preventing war and settling disputes between nations peacefully on the basis of values common to the whole of humanity. There must be no repetition of the arms race with its ruinous buildup of mind boggling amounts of armaments, a large share of which are now being scrapped, also at considerable economic cost.

A new military doctrine must have built in mechanisms to rule out such a possibility. It must seek to be integrated into a global system of monitoring military activities, all military activities on an interethnic and intersocial as well as international scale. Naturally the formulation of such a military doctrine cannot be left to the military establishment. It must involve structures responsible for political, economic, and diplomatic as well as military affairs. The old stereotypes that this is the concern of the military establishment alone, shrouded moreover in deep secrecy, must be relentlessly broken down. The job must be entrusted to the National Security Council which would coordinate a versatile approach to the formulation of such a doctrine. The formulation of the new military doctrine must finally proceed in the context of a general demilitarization of the country and society, a basic measure dictated by economic as well as moral considerations.

Officers' Assembly Becoming 'More Democratic'

PM2410155991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Oct 91 First Edition p 4

[Reader's letter, with unattributed reply: "Officers' Assembly Will Become More Democratic"]

[Text] I have heard that the defense minister has issued an order introducing changes into the Regulation on the Officers Assembly. What are these changes?

[Signed] Major V. Svetlov.

Such an order was indeed signed as No. 473 by the minister of defense on 6 October 1991. The main and essential change in the Regulation on the Officers' Assembly in the USSR Armed Forces is that henceforth the chairman will be elected "at a general meeting of Officers' Assembly members, by secret ballot, on a multicandidate basis, for a period of two years."

For well-known reasons, the words and concepts "party and military-political organs" have been removed from the regulation. Other changes have also been introduced. We think it worth noting that Point 4 orders the following: "Elections to leading organs of the Officers Assembly are to be held by 15 November 1991 in accordance with the changes introduced by the present decree..."

Baltic Affairs

USSR Relinquishes Control of Air Traffic

LD2610091691 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0200 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] On the instructions of the chief of staff of the Soviet Air Defense Forces, air flights from the Baltic states to other countries and from abroad to the Baltic states will henceforth come under the air traffic control services of those states. This has been announced by the Soviet Air Defense Forces in a telegram sent to the Lithuanian Government.

As we already have reported, last Monday a Soviet fighter plane prevented the flight to Lithuania of a Danish plane carrying experts of the World Health Organization. Their plane was forced to land in Warsaw and to remain there for some time. The Lithuanian Government lodged a protest with Soviet Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

Temporary Customs Border Approved

OW2610005891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2000 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Committee for Operational Economic Management has approved the USSR Customs Committee's measures to establish a temporary customs border with the Baltic states. Pending the demarcation of the state border with Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, the Customs Committee proposes to establish a temporary customs border running along the administrative-territorial borders between the regions of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus [Belorussia], and the above-mentioned Baltic republics.

The Russian Federation and Belarus were asked to develop a procedure of quoting and licensing the goods exported to the Baltic republics.

Before January 1, 1992, practical measures will be taken to exercise customs control over the movement of goods across the temporary borders with the Baltic states.

With this end in view, in 1991-92 the number of customs officers will be increased by 1,500.

Chairman of the Customs Committee, Mr. Yermakov, said that because of the price-rise in the Baltic republics, the border with them is reminiscent with a crater which pulls in material values and give back worthless rubles. However, the Customs Committee opposes the imposition of customs and export-and-import duties on the goods moving to the Baltic republics.

The customs committee is organizing 50 customs posts on the border with the Baltic republics. Preliminary agreements with the Baltic republics have been reached, said Mr.Yermakov.

Estonia

Savisaar, Shaposhnikov Sign Withdrawal Pact

PM2710201591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[IZVESTIYA correspondent L. Levitskiy report: "Paratroops To Leave Estonia as Early as November"]

[Text] Tallinn—Paratroop subunits will be withdrawn from Estonia as early as November. The date for termination of the presence there of units of other combat arms will be specified in the near future. Estonian Prime Minister E. Savisaar and USSR Defense Minister Ye. Shaposhnikov have signed an agreement on this.

In accordance with this understanding new units cannot be brought into Estonia, and the number of those already there cannot be increased. All troop movements and exercises have to be agreed with the republic government. Land which the Army occupies has begun to be inventoried. Areas of land which are unused or have been seized without permission must be returned to their owners. And the Army will have to pay for those lands which are necessary.

The defense ministry promised to discuss the possibility of handing over weaponry, ammunition, equipment, transport, and uniforms, which are necessary for forming national defense forces. The government in turn guaranteed servicemen and members of their families all social and civil rights.

Judging by the press, the Estonian public has greeted the agreement's signing favorably. The signing has generated a different reaction in the military subunits. Meetings of officers from units located in Tartu have expressed serious anxiety.

"We understand the position of the Estonian Republic's Government," a jointly adopted statement says. "We ask you to understand us as well. The withdrawal of units from Estonia can only be carried out if the servicemen are provided with apartments in their new stationing location."

NATO Membership Called Sovereignty 'Guarantee'

LD2610100191 Moscow TASS in English 2248 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn October 25 TASS—Estonian parliament speaker Julo Nugis regards Estonia's accession to NATO as one of the guarantees of the republic's sovereignty.

He spoke on Thursday at a briefing dealing with the results of the republican parliament's delegation in the North Atlantic Assembly session in Madrid.

Speakers at the briefing pointed out that the policy of neutrality which the Estonian Republic had adhered to

had not saved it from being occupied in 1940. Therefore effective security measures should be taken to avoid a recurrence of the tragedy, speakers maintained.

Nugis believes that NATO's collective security system may serve as a kind of umbrella that would shield Estonia from the East.

Raivo Vare Named Acting Prime Minister

OW2610002791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1630 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting of the Presidium of the Estonian Parliament on Ocotber 24th, State Minister of Estonia Raivo Vare was given temporary responsibility for the Prime Minister's duties.

Vare will hold this job for the duration of Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar's visit to the U.S. Savisaar will be in the U.S. with his minister of economics Jaak Leimann until November 4th.

The prime ministers of the three Baltic states will take part in a conference in Indianapolis on developing concepts for economic development in the Baltics.

Russian Representative Notes Developing Ties

LD2510213791 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Oleg Popovich, the Russian Foreign Ministry representative in Estonia, noted in an interview with the Baltic News Service that Russia's actions in establishing diplomatic relations with the Republic of Estonia differs in a positive way from the USSR activity in the same sphere. Namely, Russia and the Republic of Estonia signed two more documents in addition to a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations. According to these, talks will soon begin on protection of human rights.

Oleg Popovich said: In our opinion, changing borders cannot be a subject for discussion.

The establishing of soft, European-style borders demonstrates, in the opinion of the representative, the will of both parties to preserve goodneighbourly relations. In his opinion, the talks between the Republic of Estonia, the USSR, and Russia should proceed along three main lines. The first should be the activity of the all-Union delegation led by Anatoliy Sobchak, with Russia participating as a part of the USSR. Another line is the direct Russian-Estonian talks, with the border regime and citizens' rights as its subject. As a third, Popovich named the work at ratification of the Estonian-Russian interstate treaty with which Russia has been [words indistinct]. The representative is convinced that the treaty will be ratified soon.

Minister Discusses Trade With Russia

OW2810015491 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1800 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Aleksandr Sikkal, the Estonian minister of material resources, announced in Tallinn that Russia intends to introduce world market prices in its trade with the Baltic states and introduce a system of payment in convertible hard currency. Mr. Sikkal returned from Moscow a few days ago after talks with the Russian authorities on the subject.

The deputy minister of material resources, Kalle Leet, said in an interview with the Estonian government newspaper "RAHVA HAAL" that "The prices Russia is proposing for vital raw materials are not at all to our advantage." In an interview with the ETA Press Agency, Leet revealed that Russia may set the price of petrol at $230 per tonne, but was ready to buy meat from Estonia at $1,600 per tonne. He also said that Russia was not interested in electrical energy produced in Estonia.

The ETA Press Agency has concluded from Leet's words that the Moscow trade talks ended without success for Estonia.

However, Minister of Material Resources Sikkal is to fly back to Moscow in the near future to continue negotiations.

Changes to Judicial System Legislated

LD2610151991

[Editorial Report] Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian at 1800 GMT on 23 October carries a 5-minute report by correspondent Feliks Kaasik on the Estonian Supreme Council's approval of legislation changing the judicial system in the republic. Kaasik interviews First Deputy Justice Minister Mark Rask.

Rask says: "We are talking here of a package of laws which are the beginning of reform. This includes the law on law courts and the law on the status of judges." Rask adds that the Supreme Council abolished use of the name Supreme Court in favor of a return to the term State Court. He says the new system will comprise three tiers, with rural or town courts forming the initial stage of approach, appeal courts the second stage and the State Court as the top judiciary body. He explains: "This three-tier judicial system reflects the protection of civil rights, so that no single judicial department will resolve the legal debate or the issue about which a citizen has approached the court or with which a case against him has been intiated." Rask says much additional judicial legistation is required. Kaasik adds that the law on the courts becomes effective on 1 June 1992 and the law on the status of judges on 1 January 1992.

Russian Democratic Movement Holds Congress

LD2710210191 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT 26V Oct 91

[Video report by H. Lenk from Tallinn; introduced by program host Rabiga Amanzholova; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] [Amanzholova] The second congress of the Russian Democratic Movement of Estonia was held in Tallinn today.

[Lenk] As is known, Estonia with its population of 1.5 million currently has around 600,000 inhabitants who are Russians or representatives of other Russian-speaking national minorities. It is the interests of this section of the population that the Russian Democratic Movement seeks to defend. In Estonia Russians are regarded as non-indigenous, since most of them came to the republic following the communist coup of 1942 and therefore, as it were, are not entitled to automatic citizenship in the reborn Estonian Republic. The Russian Democratic Movement considers that the restoration of Estonian statehood opens the possibility for overcoming the totalitarian past in inter-ethnic relations.

[Lvovskiy, not further identified] Our movement—currently provisionally known as the Russian Democratic Movement—exists in a certain way to consolidate the Russian-speaking population in today's Estonia. I emphasize "in today's Estonia" because Estonia today is a state formation of a qualitatively entirely new kind. In August Estonia became an independent state and that has meant a change in our position as Russian speakers in Estonia. We have moved from being part of a large people to the status of a national minority. For that reason I see the creation of a Russian-speaking democratic movement as a precursor, a first step, to the creation of a Russian- speaking community in the state of Estonia.

Post-Coup Investigation in Northeast Viewed

LD2610110591 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Tiit Vahi, special representative of the Republic of Estonia Government in northeast Estonia and minister of transport and communications, reports that as a result of an investigation into the activities of certain persons during the August putsch, most serious claims have been raised against Kohtla-Jarve Town Council and Aleksandr Tsvinev, its chairman. There are also reproaches made to Narva Town Council and Vladimir Chuykin, its chairman. The minister noted that proceeding from the results of the investigation, police prefects at both Narva and Kohtla-Jarve must be replaced, even though the Estonian Ministry of Internal Affairs is said to consider it possible that they continue work. Kohtla-Jarve and Narva police prefects' offices are responsible for the misdemeanors which took place as they acted hand in hand with the so-called workers' squads, thus violating Republic of Estonia laws, Tiit Vahi emphasized.

Latvia

Talks With Yakovlev in Moscow Noted

LD2710230991 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Report from Moscow by correspondent Peteris Austrums]

[Text] Today in the Kremlin there were talks between Aleksandr Yakovlev, leader of the USSR state delegation for bilateral talks with Latvia, and the leader of the Latvian delegation Janis Dinevics, First Deputy Foreign Minister Martins Virsis, and the government's permanent representative in Moscow, Janis Peters. After these talks, true, the participants were quite taciturn, and of course, why not? Not much progress was acheived on the object of the talks, specifying a schedule.

Janis Dinevics, who with Martins Virsis also met today Andrey Fedorov, foreign affairs adviser of Russian Vice Presidednt Aleksandr Rutskoy, stated that evidently it would be possible to conduct parallel talks, on the one side with a working group led by Russian Federation Deputy Aleksandr Granberg, whose task is to prepare for signing a supplementary treaty to the Latvian-Russian one of January this year. If a lot of work is necessary for the signing of this treaty, then these consultations can be converted into real bilateral talks. They would not have the (?same sequence) as the object of the talks with the Soviet Union. (Among other things, Janis Dinevics (?sees) that the Soviet Union (?treats) the problems with the three Baltic states together. And this [words indistinct] one of these states being picked out in the process of the talks. For example, Mikhail Gorbachev is ready to confirm the composition of the delegation, to be submitted by Aleksandr Yakovlev to Mikhail Gorbachev for confirmation.

There could be 12 professionals in the delegation: Yakovlev; the deputy leader of the delegation will be Viktor Mironenko, the secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme Soviet of the Union. At one time (?he was the leader of the Komsomol) of the Soviet Union, but now he holds the post occupied (?relatively) recently by Nikolajs Neilands. Also included in the delegation are the deputy chairman of the KGB, Myasnikov; the commander of the land forces, Semenov; the chairman of the Public Education Committee, Yagodin; as well as representatives of the USSR Bank, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Economics and other departments. It is interesting that only one representative of the state structure of the Russian Federation is due to be included in the delegation: a political official of the third rank, Deputy (Sitonenko). Evidently Latvia will in the near future have to carry out talks in parallel, or in sequence, with two delegations: a working group or

delegation of the Russian Federation, and the delegation of the Soviet Union to the bilateral talks.

Accord With Russia Possible Within Month

OW2610222691 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1400 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting took place in Riga on 24th October between Anatolijs Gorbunovs, the leader of the Latvian parliament, and Alexander Granberg, a member of the presidium of the RSFSR (Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic) Supreme Soviet and Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Republican Affairs and Regional Policy.

The two sides discussed the specific question of the Russian parliament's ratification of the intergovernmental agreement between Latvia and Russia, concluded in January. Mr. Granberg told the Latvian delegation that in his opinion the agreement could be ratified within a month.

He also met the Latvian vice-premier, Ilmars Bishers, the deputy foreign minister, Martins Virsis, and Deputy Finance Minister Andris Gutmanis.

Supreme Council Adopts Human Rights Law

LD2610103891 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] At its first reading, the Supreme Council has accepted a bill on human and civic rights and obligations in the Republic of Latvia. This is a constitutional law prepared by a working group led by Deputy Juris Bojars. Therefore the best person to know, Juris Bojars himself, tells you about it:

[Bojars] One must say (?consistently) that at its first reading the law was adopted quite successfully, with 65 votes for, only 16 votes against—obviously mostly from the opposition—and eight deputies abstained. One must say that this is an extremely important political law, which lays down the main rights of people and their duties in the Republic of Latvia. This law sets out significant provisions, as in Paragraph 1, which applies to everyone located on the territory of Latvia, for example, people, (?respect for) their freedoms and rights (?as) the highest basic value of the Latvian state. Or Paragraph 2: Everyone has the right to activity which is not forbidden by law. This is ultimately the opposite of the norm that applied during the administrative bureaucratic system in the Soviet Union. Or Paragraph 3: The duty of the state is to protect the person and his freedom, security, to respect his rights and property. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Ante Busa] What will these rights and duties be?

[Bojars] People's right to life, protected by the state. All people are equal before the law. Rights for all people to act by the lawful existing means to oppose unlawful violence. These principles I put first: That is, I have the right to take up any measures against violence, even if the one acting violently against me is a representative of the state. This is an extremely essential democratic norm, which has been a feature of the laws of the world since the American Revolution, the American Constitution. Furthermore, we believe that in Paragraph 50, the so-called "habeas corpus" principle is an extremely important step for the judicial process.

According to this principle, any person, within three days of being detained, must be called before a court, and the court gives sanction for the arrest and imprisonment of the detained person or orders the immediate release of this person. That is extremely important, because hitherto, in the Soviet Union, and often in Latvia, too, people could be held in prison, before investigation, for years, together with criminals, too. [passage omitted]

Now there are whole waves of some sort of advertisers; every morning the television hires a channel for advertisers. This is simply awful! U.S. and Latin American advertisers! Every morning, look, we have the television in place so we can quietly watch some news in Latvian. We don't get Latvian morning news. Instead, we get advertisers speaking Russian. This is simply terrible. It is a spiritual pollution of the people.

[Busa] Tell me, Mr.Bojars. I have been waiting for this bill to be called. Well, there was greater reaction in the hall; however, the debate was a bit—well, polite, a bit bland

[Bojars] One must say, the biggest hostility was spent in discussing the citizenship law. Unfortunately that was not relayed. [passage omitted]

[Busa] That is a (?telling) comment on the citizenship bill. [passage omitted]

Demonstrators Picket Supreme Council Building

OW2610012191 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2000 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The newspaper "SM-TODAY" reports that the Latvian Supreme Council building was picketed for three days as demonstrators protested against the increasing discrimination against the non-native population of the republic.

The demonstrators reminded of the recent dissolution of the "Russian-speaking" city councils of Daugavpils and Rezekne and the Leningrad district council of Riga, as well as the October 15 resolution on citizenship discriminating against most of the Russian population living in Latvia.

The picketers demanded the release of the former Latvian Communist Party first secretary A. Rubiks held under arrest in a Riga prison on political charges.

Gorbunovs Meets Korean Delegation in Riga

LD2610151191 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2130 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The chairman of the Supreme Council, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, has met a Korean Government delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Han Tak-chae today in the Latvian capital Riga. The two sides have agreed to exchange expert delegations to agree on the eventual areas of mutual cooperation. The Korean delegation has also met today Latvian Vice Premier Ilmars Bisers and officials at the Ministry of Economics.

Trade Agreement Reached With Ukraine

OW2610222791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1400 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of specialists from the Latvian Ministry of Material Resources set out for Kiev yesterday (25th October) to concluded [as received] a draft agreement on mutual trade deliveries between the Ukraine and Latvia in 1992.

The press attache at the Ministry of Material Resources, Ieva Jekabsone, told "BALTFAX" that the Ukrainians plan to supply Latvia with oil products, iron and chemical products, agricultural produce and other commodities.

For its part, Latvia will export electrical technology, light industrial products, construction materials and agricultural produce to the Ukraine. Jekabsone said that agreeing on methods of payment may cause problems.

Lithuania

Government Delegation Leaves for U.S.

LD2610124191 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] At the invitation of the Hudson Institute, which is drawing up economic development programs for some Baltic states, Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and government secretary Kestutis Cilinskas left for Washington today.

In Washington, the Lithuanian Government delegation will be joined by Minister Without Portfolio Aleksandras Abisala, who is visiting the United States, International Economic Relations Minister Vytenis Aleskaitis, and a group of economic experts.

During the visit, meetings of the Lithuanian Government delegation with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, other administration officials, bankers, and trade representatives are planned. Meetings with leaders of the World Bank and the IMF are also planned.

Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and other members of the Lithuanian Government have been invited to meetings with representatives of the U.S., Canadian, and other Lithuanian communities, and they will also participate in a meeting of the Supreme Lithuanian Liberation Committee.

Defense Minister Meets NATO Secretary General

OW2610221891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1400 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian home defence minister, Audrius Butkevicius, who is in Brussels at the invitation of NATO has met the general secretary of the North Atlantic military bloc, Manfred Woerner. The hour-long meeting dealt with questions of cooperation between Lithuania and NATO and security perspectives in the Baltic region. The parties also spoke of the possible participation by Lithuania in NATO projects.

Russian Official Holds Talks on Delayed Treaty

LD2610165691 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0200 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Aleksandr Granberg, a member of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium, visited LIthuania today [23 October]. He leads that country's parliament working group preparing the ratification of Russia's treaties with the former soviet republics.

The Lithuanian parliament ratified the treaty with Russia during the August putsch in the Soviet Union, soon after its signing by Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis and President Boris Yeltsin.

Meanwhile, the Russian parliament has not even discussed the ratification of the treaty with Lithuania. According to Aleksandr Granberg, this is because many people's deputies in Russia are taking a cautious approach to the treaties with the republics which used to belong to the Soviet Union and with those which remain there. This could be seen clearly during the ratification of the interstate treaties with Belorussia, the Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

Lithuania has not been waiting for the acceptance by the Russian legislators of the treaty signed by the leaders of the two countries. Since September of last year, treaties with Moldova, and those with Latvia and Estonia, signed last January, have not been ratified. Lithuania signed a document with Russia roughly three months ago.

There are also other reasons for this delay. Aleksandr Granberg, chairman of the Russian parliament's Committee for Interrepublican Relations and Regional Policy, told Radio Vilnius that ratifying the treaties takes

second place in his country thanks to the confusion in his country stemming from the putsch, the elimination of its consequences as well as resolving complex economic problems.

The member of the presidium of the Russian parliament offered assurances that his country wants to speed up this process and said that he was authorized to prepare within six weeks grounds for such a decision by parliament. However, he warned not to expect an easy agreement by Russia's deputies to the treaty with Lithuania. They will need evidence that the treaty has a vital capacity, that it guarantees the rights of Lithuania's Russians and is favorable toward Russia's economic interests.

Therefore, Aleksandr Granberg says that before the inclusion of the ratificatin of the treaty with Lithuania on the agenda of Russia's parliament, Vilnius and Moscow should sign documents on economic cooperation, and the interstate treaty provides for about twenty of them, including agreements on the exchange of goods, price policy, financial settlement, customs system, and so on.

The representative of the Presidium of Russia's Supreme Soviet told Radio Vilnius that he devoted this one-day visit in Vilnius to consultations with Lithuania's leaders on concrete documents on economic cooperation which the sides could discuss and sign within the next few months.

Aleksandr Granberg held talks today with Vytautas Landsbergis, and Gediminas Vagnorius, within the nex few months because, according to the guest, the issue of the ratification of the treaty with Lithuania will be raised in Russia's parliament before the end of November. [sentence as heard]

Asked about his attitude to Lithuania's demand that the Soviet Army be withdrawn without delay from its territory, Aleksandr Granberg said that Russia understands such a wish by Vilnius, but he noted that this was linked with certain great difficulties, recalling the experience of a prolonged withdrawal of the Army from central and eastern Europe. Lithuania's demand is explained by the threat to its stateshood. The August putsch in the Soviet Union proved that it can be real. Russia is well aware of the fact that she would bear the burden of the transfer, housing, and employment of the servicemen. Therefore, according to Aleksandr Granberg, Russia's parliamentarians will first of all pay attention to these problems. But he said there could be no doubts that Russia understands Lithuania's demand to pull out the foreign Army as soon as possible.

Having met representatives of the Russian community in Lithuania, Aleksandr Granberg said that Russia would like to see the withdrawal of the Army and the control of state borders become the lead issues in the Lithuanian-Soviet negotiations. As is known, Russia has so far delegated these functions to the Soviet Union.

Later the guest noted to Radio Vilnius that the Soviet negotiators have failed to take any practical steps to begin negotiations. He promised to apply to the head of the Soviet delegation, Eduard Shevardnadze, urging him to step up his efforts. According to him, this is directly linked with the ratification of the treaty with Lithuania. Unfortunately, the familiar situation is being repeated. Former delegations of the Soviet negotiators, too, have not started serious work in negotiations with the Baltic republics, said the guest with regret.

In assessing the progress of relations between Lithuania and Russia he said that the states completely understand each other and there are no principal obstacles for the relations of good neighborliness.

Today's metings in Vilnius were called friendly and constructive by Aleksandr Granberg. He told Radio Vilnius that a large delegation of the Russian parliament would arrive in Vilnius within a couple of weeks.

Landsbergis, Belorussian Official Meet

LD2710153391 Vilnius Radio Vilius International Service in Lithuanian 0200 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Today in Vilnius, the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, and the chairman of the Belorussian parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, signed a declaration on the principles of good-neighborly relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Belorussia.

At a news conference following the signing of the document, both leaders noted that this was a very important stage in the relations between Lithuania and Belorussia as independent states. Both sides have no doubt acted in good-neighborly and mutually advantageous cooperation. It was stressed at the same time that the issue concerning the Lithuanian-Belorussian state border was the affair of both of these states and of nobody else. As is known, somewhat earlier, when Lithuania was striving for independence, the Kremlin threatened to raise territorial claims, above all, about some Belorussian territories that were allocated to Lithuania by Stalin after the war.

The chairman of the Belorussian parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, arrived in Vilnius accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Demchuk; Petr Sadovskiy, the chairman of the Commission for International Relations and Foreign Contacts of the parliament; Ivan Kurachenko, the chairman of the Commission for Openness, Mass Information Media, and Human Rights; Ivan Kurachenko, the chairman of the parliament Commission for National Policy and International Relations, (?Vladimir Sinko), deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Belorussian Republic; and a group of deputies.

Upon arrival of the guests, Vytautas Landsbergis and Stanislav Shushkevich met and had a one-to-one conversation.

The chairman of the Belorussian parliament laid a wreath at the Antakalnis military cemetery by the graves of whose who lost their lives on 13 January.

The Belorussian envoys had a meeting with members of the Belorussian cultural society in Lithuania. [passage omitted]

The one-day visit to Vilnius was concluded with a ceremonial dinner in honor of the chairman of the Belorussian parliament.

Procuracy To Probe Crimes Against Humanity

LD2710173491 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0200 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] The presidium of the Lithuanian parliament has instructed the republican General Procuracy to set up a special investigation department which will investigate crimes against humanity and cooperate with similar institutions in other states.

A resolution adopted the day before yesterday by the parliament Presidium and published today states that the Lithuanian parliament has more than once publicly condemned crimes against humanity, and adheres in principle to the stand that persons who have committed these crimes should be prosecuted and not evade responsibility.

The General Procuracy is instructed to set up a special investigation department and, bearing in mind the wishes of some states, to cooperate in investigating such crimes. The republican General Procuracy itself is obliged to maintain relations with the corresponding state services in other countries, to exhange the necessary information, and to render practical assistance to their representatives in Lithuania.

As is known, this week Lithuania was reproached for the alleged rehabilitation of the participants in the genocide of the Jews. As we have already reported, the Wiesenthal Center representative who has arrived in Vilnius asserted at a press conference that the center has a list of 30 persons who took part in the murder of the Jews and who have been rehabiliated.

The day after the press conference given by the director of the Israeli branch of the Wiesenthal Center, the representative for the press of the Lithuanian parliament regretted that the guest had supplied imprecise facts. An official of the General Procuracy has reported that the preparation of an official reply to the Wiesenthal Center representative is nearing completion.

Lithuanian-Polish Border 'More Complex'

LD2710142591 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0200 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] The situation at the Lazdijai customs office is becoming more complex. With the weather turning very cold and the first sleet of the season falling, the line of cars waiting to cross into Poland extends five km. There are several reasons for this, including the fact that the Soviet Union has closed down several border crossing points in Belorussia.

However, speaking this evening on Lithuanian television, Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius said that most serious is the fact that Poland has introduced new limitations for the import of food products and has failed to appoint additional officials for this border post. In the last 24 hours Polish customs officials turned back about 50 Lithuanian vehicles carrying the so called tourists who exceeded the quota allowed by the Poles—goods to the value of $100 per person at Polish prices.

It is not difficult to imagine that the losses by these people are great because on the Lithuanian side, too, legal and illegal customs fees are increasing very rapidly. Gediminas Vagnorius mentioned last night that new criminal proceedings have been instituted for violations at the Lazdijai customs office, although all personnel at the post have been replaced recently.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Previews Yeltsin Reform Package

LD2610115391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 0630 GMT 26 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Liberalization of prices and the freeing of wages are the main provisions of Boris Yeltsin's reform package. Here is an assessment of the impending changes from Doctor of Economic Sciences Ruslan Khasbulatov [acting chairman of Russian Supreme Soviet].

[Begin recording] [Khasbulatov] How are we to implement very serious steps in the real economic reformation of society? Ultimately, we must give the industrial producer a chance to breath, but we have subjected him to taxes from all sides and to some manner of directives and instructions. It is as though we have been saying that we are, so to speak, trying to eliminate the administrative, bureaucratic system, yet we are not eliminating it, but creating a new one. A new bureaucracy is growing, both at the local level and at the center. We must free ourselves from all this, and the economy as a whole must be freed from the grips of the state, from politics, and from various amateurish politicians.

I believe that we are giving much scope to parasitical forms of economic organization. There are a large number of various outfits of this sort, including joint enterprises, which have obtained the right to conduct a variety of hard-currency operations, among others, and foreign deals. In my opinion, in the majority of cases, they are already merging somehow with the underground economy and are not only not yielding any benefit, but actually causing us enormous harm.

There must be, all the same, an industrial strategy, an industrial policy. We have already drawn up an agrarian policy, more or less. Perhaps we should also call a special congress of people's deputies to finalize an industrial strategy. Our industry is perishing. The trade sector is operating in a closed circle. There is a great amount of confusion in the trade sector. We have to wage a most serious fight against that. [end recording]

[Unidentified correspondent] *Russia: Time for Changes, or A Conversation on Krasnaya Presnya* is coming out. The book's author is Ruslan Khasbulatov. It is an analysis of the present situation, the causes of the crisis, and ways out of it.

Khasbulatov Says Many Reforms Not Working

LD2710032191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2150 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, by L. Lashchenko; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lashchenko] There is increasing talk of imminent price rises.

[Khasbulatov] Price rises? They are rising so quickly anyway, are they not?

[Lashchenko] Unfortunately.

[Khasbulatov] Yes, unfortunately, so these rumors are probably justified. I think that they are right, because even if there were no rumors, prices would go up anyway. They are rising, we can see that they are rising. So, unfortunately, the value of our money is not increasing, for one thing. Also, the amount of goods is not increasing, and many of our reforms that one might have thought would produce results are so far not doing so. Joint ventures, for example, are operating pretty hopelessly so far.

[Announcer Mikhail Osokin] The STUDINFORM news agency reports that its correspondent already has seen in the Moscow mayor's office a draft Russian Government document envisaging the doubling or trebling of average prices.

Deputies Doubt Success of Economic Reforms

LD2510214791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1512 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By Gennadiy Talayev]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] people's deputies—leaders of industrial enterprises—think that the Russian president's economic reform program may fail after it is adopted.

They expressed their dissatisfaction at a meeting here today, citing the fact that the reform program Boris Yeltsin is expected to present at the Fifth Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies, which opens on 28 October, has not been discussed by the parliamentary committee for industry. The deputies have decided to work out a joint position and present it to the congress.

Price liberalization and the freeing of wages are the main points in the package of radical economic reforms of the president of Russia.

According to Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, who participated in the meeting, privatization in the republic is being implemented by "ill-considered and wild methods."

Ruslan Khasbulatov, a doctor of economic sciences, is convinced that clearly defined proportions of private, state and joint stock properties should be established and that the units which are not to be subjected to privatization should be determined. "At the same time, while supporting privatization, it is necessary to transform large enterprises into state corporations" he believes.

Deputy Travkin Interviewed on Dec Elections

LD2710102391

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1653 GMT on 26 October carries a 16-minute "RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Parliamentary Diary" program presented by RSFSR People's Deputy Igor Zbronzhko.

Zbronzhko begins the program by reading excerpts from the decision on the procedure for introducing the law on elections of the head of administration, the decision that caused such acute debates at the Supreme Soviet session. It says, among other things, that the law comes into force after it is signed by the RSFSR president and that the elections of heads of administration should be held in accordance with the schedule which is to be presented by the RSFSR president on 1 December 1991. Zbronzhko says that the elections may take place this year or next year.

He the introduces RSFSR People's Deputy Nikolay Ilich Travkin who says that he does not think that the decision adopted by the Supreme Soviet resolves the conflict that has started after the putsch. There was a constant fight between two concepts before the putsch. One of them is that the president should appoint the heads of administration at the level of krays and oblasts, and the second concept is that every head of the local administration, irrespective of the level—kray or rayon—should get power directly from the hands of his electors. The situation on 21 August was such that the Supreme Soviet allowed the president to replace those heads of administration who overtly supported the putsch. But the president did not stop at that point, he went further to appoint heads of administrations in other areas as well. As a result, an argument flared up in the parliament which turned into the argument between the parliament and the president. The original date of the election of local administration heads was 8 December but was cancelled at the request of the president. The parliament, mainly young deputies and less experienced, said Travkin, kept insisting that the elections be held on 8 December.

Travkin says that the position of his party is that the president should be trusted and the elections should be postponed till November 1992, and that they should take place gradually in different areas and at different time starting with those oblasts that are ready for them. He says that none of the parties is prepared for the 8 December elections. He also expresses conviction that it is wrong to replace all former party secretaries in oblasts, for example. It does not matter, he says, who does the job well—a party member or a Democratic Russia member, for example. He said that 16 million to 17 million out of 19 million former party members are normal decent people, but one must also bear in mind that some party members should not be trusted. He concludes his interview by stressing the importance of rendering assistance to the formation of the multiparty system in the country.

Session Calls For Measures in South Ossetia

LD2510210291 Moscow TASS in English 1915 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—The Russian parliament today passed a decision proposing President Boris Yeltsin to adopt urgent measures, up to the introduction of economic sanctions, with regard to Georgia to terminate the conflict in South Ossetia. The resolution calls on the USSR Foreign Ministry to invite CSCE experts to visit South Ossetia to help settle the conflict.

According to parliamentarian Valeriy Shuykov, a total of 233 people have been killed in South Ossetia by now. More than 150 people are reported missing and 500 were wounded. Several villages have been razed. Eighty-five thousand people fled to North Ossetia.

Yevgeny Dzagoyev, deputy chairman of the South Ossetian Executive Committee, called on Russian parliamentarians to protect his people against what he described as genocide.

Fifth Congress of People's Deputies

Yeltsin Intends To Deliver Opening Address

LD2710220691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] The president of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, intends to ask the Fifth Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Congress of People's Deputies to give him the floor to address the people, the congress, and the Supreme Soviet of the republic immediately after the opening of the forum. This was reported by Sergey Filatov, secretary of the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, at a meeting of deputies from the Democratic Russia bloc of deputies.

It is presumed that the president's speech will be entitled: "A System of Measures To Prepare the Stabilization of Russia's Economy."

The right wing of the parliament, according to a Russian Information Agency correspondent, is not favorably disposed to opening the work of the congress with a speech by the RSFSR president. In particular, in the view of the Communists of Russia, the speech by Boris Yeltsin will entail heated debate, and once again the deputies may quarrel.

Session To Elect Chief, Adopt Constitution

LD2810083791 Moscow TASS in English 0829 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 28 TASS—The Fifth (Extraordinary) Congress of Russia's People's Deputies resumed here today with an address to the people by Russia's President Boris Yeltsin.

The deputies are to elect a Russian parliament chief and discuss guidelines for parliament reorganisation and a draft new constitution of the Russian Federation.

The first phase of the Fifth Congress was held in July this year. The congress recessed until autumn after the deputies, following several rounds of voting, failed to elect a parliament chief.

Yeltsin: 'Time Has Come' for Action

LD2810092791 Moscow TASS in English 0908 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 28 TASS—Speaking at the resumed Fifth Congress of Russia's People's Deputies in the Kremlin here today, President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation called for firmly taking the road of global reforms with determination and unreservedly, and sought support in this determination from all sections of the population.

"The time has come to take the main decisions and begin to act and act resolutely, toughly, and without hesitation", he emphasised. The failure of the antistate coup, he said, turned out to be a setback for the entire totalitarian system.

At the same time Yeltsin emphasised that "the triumph of democracy and freedom did not do away with the economic crisis and did not reconcile peoples" and that "now there is a paralysis of power, life of the country has become increasingly disorganised."

"The present is one of the most critical moments in the country's history", Yeltsin said. "It is precisely now that it is being determined what kind of Russia will come into being in subsequent years and decades," he added.

Yeltsin Asks Congress for Additional Powers

LD2810094791 Moscow TASS in English 0932 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin asked the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation to grant him additional powers.

"In light of the rapidly changing situation in the course of the ongoing reforms, the congress could vest the president with the right to alter himself, or with subsequent endorsement by the Supreme Soviet, the existing structures of top executive bodies, decide problems linked with their composition," he said.

Yeltsin stressed that "the situation calls for a temporary, one-year, new system of interaction" between the Russian Supreme Soviet, its Presidium, the government and the president. "I am sure that it is necessary to act more resolutely, energetically and promptly in the interests of the people, who do not care for our procedural difficulties and differences," he noted.

Supporting in principle the election of the heads of executive bodies, he stressed that "this procedure is a much too great a luxury in the present-day situation. It is impossible to hold vast election campaigns and simultaneously carry out deep-going economic changes," he said.

Yeltsin Offers To Head Russian Government

LD2810095391 Moscow TASS in English 0941 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 28 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, speaking at the Congress of Russia's People's Deputies here today, offered his candidacy to head a Russian government personally.

He stated that as "the head of Russia's executive authority, exercising direction over the activities of the Council of Ministers in accordance with the Constitution, I am prepared to take over the leadership of the government personally in this responsible and hard period".

"I pledge to our people to come up with a reform-minded cabinet and count on understanding and support from the deputies and every person in Russia," Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin Plans Liberalization of Prices

LD2810101891 Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By Vladimir Isachenkov]

[Text] Moscow October 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the Fifth Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation, which opened here today, that it was planned to unfreeze prices already this year and to stop all aid to foreign countries. In his appeal to the people, he stressed that "transition to market prices was a difficult, forced, but necessary measure".

"This was previously done by many states," Yeltsin said. "About half a year will be even more difficult for everybody than now, but then prices will begin to drop and the consumer market will become more abundant. As I have promised before the elections, the stabilisation of our economy will begin by autumn 1992 and the living standards of the people will gradually improve."

He noted that the Russian leadership was planning urgent measures to strengthen the rouble. "Starting from November 1, Russia will stop financing the Union ministries and other central institutions (about 70 in all) not envisaged by the Economic Community Treaty," Yeltsin said. He told the congress that Russia would fully stop contributing to the central stabilisation fund, will discontinue "aid and credits to all countries".

Yeltsin stressed that the reforms would be conducted comprehensively and dynamically in many areas. They are intended to "remove all obstacles to the freedom of enterprises and private business, will give the people a chance to work and get as much as they earn, to get rid of bureaucratic pressure".

"It is impossible to carry out the reforms painlessly in acute crisis conditions," Yeltsin said. "The first step will be most difficult".

Yeltsin noted that "Russian fixed prices proved to be highly tempting" for some republics, which had already made progress in the liberalisation of prices. "This circumstance compels us to adopt a special decision on the creation of Russian customs services," the Russian president stressed.

Yeltsin Says Federation May Form Own Army

LD2810103691 Moscow TASS in English 1024 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 28 TASS—Boris Yeltsin stated the possibility of creating by Russia of its own armed forces. Speaking at the Congress of Russia's People's Deputies, he said that the process of forming national armies had begun in a number of republics.

"We are not in a hurry to do that. It is politically more justified to have the joint armed forces of the Union of Sovereign Republics," the president said.

"But if the process of creating national armies in republics continues contrary to our desire, nothing would remain for us but form our own Russian army. But this would not be our willing choice," he said.

The president suggested considering the creation [words indistinct] support reforms, a bloc that would form "a political alliance with the president."

Yeltsin urged trade unions to show "understanding and be prepared for reasonable compromises", adding that they "may not limit themselves to placing new and new demands upon the state".

Speaking of Russia's international policy, Yeltsin reaffirmed that Russia, while counting on cooperation and assistance from the West, undertakes to meet the Soviet Union's international commitments.

People's Deputies Approve Six-Point Agenda

LD2810122191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1133 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Oct (TASS)—The second stage of the Fifth (Extraordinary) Congress of Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] People's Deputies which opened in the Kremlin today confirmed its agenda at the afternoon session. The first stage of the fifth congress took place in July this year. However, it was interrupted after several unsuccessful attempts by deputies to elect a head of parliament.

The congress agenda includes six points. The first is the election of a chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. Furthermore, there are plans to elect an RSFSR Constitutional Court, make changes and additions to the republic's existing Constitution, partially change the membership of the parliament's Soviet of the Republic and Soviet of Nationalities, and discuss the socioeconomic situation in Russia. Under "other business" deputies agreed without a vote to discuss the situation in South Ossetia.

However, a proposal to hold a preliminary discussion of the draft of a new constitution for the Russian Federation was rejected by a majority. Several deputies took the view that this project contains several clauses, and primarily a section "on federative structure" which still gives rise to serious disagreements among the elected representatives of the people. There was no support among deputies for a proposal to discuss at the congress the question of legally assessing the decisions of the RSFSR president to suspend CPSU and Russian Communist Party activities, or on the fate of party property.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Sets Moratorium on Nuclear Tests

OW2810182191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has suspended nuclear testing on Russia's territory for a term of 12 months. This means nuclear explosions on the Novaya Zemlya Archipelago have to stop.

The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Government was instructed to think of how to use the test site at Novaya Zemlya for civilian needs and to give reliable social guarantees to the local military made redundant through the test ban.

Mr. Yeltsin's decree says the one-year moratorium reflects Russia's desire for a total ban on nuclear testing and is in response to the numerous test ban requests received from local authorities and citizens.

Yeltsin Names Candidates for Prime Minister

OW2810084391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation meeting with Russian MPs [Member of Parliament] on Friday [25 October] named the country's leading eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fedorov and the state counsellor

Yuriy Skokov as candidates for the offices of prime minister and his deputy in charge.

One Russian MP speaking afterwards said Mr. Yeltsin did not rule out the possibililty of reversing the order.

Dr. Fedorov who is widely known as the support of economic liberalisation speaking in a recent interview called for a shock treatment of the country's economy.

Communist Democratic Party Holds 1st Congress

Rutskoy Urges Reforms

LD2610205191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 26 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" Program]

[Text] The First Congress of the Democratic Party of Russian Communists [Demokraticheskaya Partiya Kommunistov Rossii] is taking place in Moscow's Central House of Cinematographers.

At a preparatory news conference—you will see it in a minute—it has already been said that this will evidently be the last congress for a party with such a name. A draft resolution indicates that the party may be renamed the People's Party of Free Russia [Narodnaya Partiya Svobodnoy Rossii]. According to a report in the newspaper KURANTY, the party is claiming some of the CPSU's property, which it eventually plans to hand over to the people of Russia.

Our correspondent has just returned from the congress and he has a recording of remarks made by [Russian] Vice President Rutskoy. [video shows Rutskoy being interviewed in a corridor]

[Begin recording, in progress] [Correspondent] ...party in our public life?

[Rutskoy] I have just been speaking about that, but we can do a rerun. First, the party's role as of today must consist precisely of supporting the radical reforms of Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. That is its principal role. In other words, the introduction of those reforms into public life. Why? Because, as you understand perfectly well, no matter how clever Yeltsin may be, no matter how clever the new chairman of the Council of Ministers may be, no matter how clever I may be, we are unable to implement these reforms without the social masses. So, as you saw and heard in my report, the main point, as it were, was the view that it is necessary to direct public awareness toward support for radical reform.

Prosperity will not arrive tomorrow. People will actually start to feel the change and stability, God willing, somewhere around about September 1992. Right now it is necessary to simply be patient, to just be patient in a proper, human fashion. Why? This ball, this snowball, has accumulated gradually, and now it will not melt instantly. [end recording]

Yakovlev Views Manifesto

LD2610221191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1640 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Interview with Political Consultative Committee member Aleskandr Yakovlev by unidentified correspondent in Moscow on 26 October—recorded]

[Text] The First Congress of the Democratic Party of Communists of Russia, the People's Party, Free Russia, opened in Moscow today. The definitive name will be confirmed by the congress. Here is what Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the USSR President's Political Consultative [Konsultatsionnyy] Committee, said in an interview with our correspondent.

[Correspondent] There are many parties appearing. Did the manifesto seem convincing to you?

[Yakovlev] You know, I liked the report. I have not read the manifesto. It still has to be confirmed by our colleagues. But the report shows concern. I always like it when active concern [ozabochennost o dele] is shown, in any speech, in any proposals, in any reflections.

[Correspondent] They are certainly concerned, and there is plain speaking about a catastrophe.

[Yakovlev] That is right, right. Well, this is what I call human concern. This always emanates not from political intrigue [politikanstvo] but from politics [politika], from the heart. From this perspective, I liked the report. If the party accepts this manifesto and draws it up in detail, then I think that it will seriously expedite the reforms, which should in this country be proceeding much more radically, and more rapidly, than they are, in Russia as well.

[Correspondent] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, in Russia we have never been frightened of teaching people to swim by throwing them in at the deep end. But will we not be throwing many into the deep end, a long way from the shore and just about into the middle of the sea?

[Yakovlev] What do you mean, economically speaking?

[Correspondent] Economically, of course. Enterprise, business.

[Yakovlev] You understand, I think it will be a mistake if we, let us say, remove price constraints but do not demonopolize industry and everything. We have to demonopolize and step up privatization of whatever we can at present. At the moment, we do not know how, what or when.

[Correspondent] But we cannot wait.

[Yakovlev] But we cannot wait. This is a very serious contradiction, between the demands of the time and our ability to comprehend this time. Alas, this is an old discrepancy.

[Correspondent] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, excuse me, but still I fear for my country, I fear for the children. And you?

[Yakovlev] We will all be afraid. Let us go back to the past.

[Correspondent] Anything but that.

[Yakovlev] Ah, see, that is where we need to start from.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Rutskoy Addresses Session

LD2610210491 Moscow TASS in English 1853 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—The Democratic Party of Russian Communists should be regarded by the people neither as "another Soviet Communist Party with a slightly different appearance", nor as a "pocket party of the Russian president," its leader Aleksandr Rutskoy believes. He made a report at the opening of the first congress of the Democratic Party of Russian Communists. The report dealt with the social-economic situation in Russia and the party's tasks.

The congress, which will last for two days, will approve a number of documents with the party's ideological and political guidelines, to elect leaders and decide whether or not the party's name should be changed.

The party, the constituent conference of which was held early in August, was created on the initiative of Aleksandr Rutskoy and a group of communist reformers who did not agree with the conservative course of the leadership of the Russian Communist Party, on the basis of the Communists for Democracy parliamentary group.

A rapid development of events after the suppression of the August coup attempt took the new party by surprise, because before the coup it was working for the democratisation of the Soviet Communist Party from the inside and was preparing for a long struggle with the totalitarian structures, Rutskoy said. Now the necessity emerged for a clear self-determination of the party in new conditions. This mission is to be fulfilled by the first congress. According to Rutskoy, the Democratic Party of Russian Communists is opposite in many respects to the Soviet Communist Party in politics and ideology. We are against imposing the only world outlook, and we do not claim the vanguard role. We favour political support for the economic reforms, the support for a rapid advance towards a market-based system proclaimed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, he said.

Rutskoy set forth the economic and social programme of the party and pointed out that the basis of its social policy is "not to count on state reserves, but to use for social protection the resources of the emerging business and commercial structures."

He warned against the danger of a possible disintegration of the Russian Federation. He pointed out that "Gorbachev's idea of the creation of a new union is not a chimera, but a goal supported by millions of people." His party should also work for attaining this goal, Rutskoy said.

He believes the word "communist" has been compromised by the "criminal policy of the Soviet Communist Party". Referring to the opinion of most supporters of the party on the need for changing its name, he suggested another name for it—the People's Party of Free Russia.

Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the board of the party, submitted to the congress the draft documents to be approved on October 27—the party's rules, the declaration of principles, the main principles of social and economic policy and the minimum programme, which is to become its electoral platform.

The declaration of principles says the party intends "by its creative activities to atone for the guilt of communists before the nation." "At the same time, we do not want to lose the continuity of the humanistic and democratic traditions that existed in the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party—the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks)—the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks)—the Soviet Communist Party," the document points out. "We are a pragmatic and not doctrine-based party. Our goal is not the creation of new society on the basis of some ideological model, but the solution of concrete problems posed by life."

Setting forth the main principles of the social and economic policy of the party, Lipitskiy pointed out that the party supported economic methods, traditional for liberal and conservative parties (it favours early privatisation and the rapid development of enterprise), although it believes the Western social democratic parties are the closest to it. However, in order to ensure social justice, it is necessary to create material basis. Consequently, it is necessary to build a market-oriented economy as soon as possible, he said.

Rutskoy on Possible Chairmanship

LD2710015791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2150 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Interview with Russian Vice President Rutskoy by unidentified correspondent at the First Congress of the Democratic Party of Russian Communists in Moscow on 26 October—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] At the news conference before the congress it was stated that you will probably not become the party chairman.

[Rutskoy] Let me put it this way, if the congress considers it necessary to elect me honorary chairman of the Communist Party, then I will probably agree to this, although I am in trouble with my family because I am never at home. I will probably say yes.

Session Ends; Rutskoy Comments

LD2710204191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1538 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] [Announcer] The First Congress of the People's Party of Free Russia [Narodnaya Partiya Svobodnoy Rossii] has ended in Moscow. Here is our special correspondent Leonid Lazarevich to report; he is on the phone to the studio from the congress. Go ahead.

[Lazarevich] The congress is actually ending, because its new chairman, Aleksandr Rutskoy, is now answering questions put to him. Let me remind you that this prominent figure, vice president of Russia, Air Force major general, and hero of the Soviet Union, has been elected party chairman.

And now about the main decisions taken at the congress. There is a general political resolution of the first congress. It says that Russia has arrived at a critical point in its history. The demise of dictatorship has unfortunately not been followed by profound social reform. A headlong fall in production, impoverishment of the general public, decay of the mechanisms of administration, lawlessness, disruption of the moral fabric of society: Such is the extent of the nationwide crisis. Well, these are not new thoughts but one can sense that this party is serious in its approach.

In this connection, the congress is appealing to the people's deputies of Russia and the Russian leadership to adopt a program of radical reforms for the transition to a socially orientated democratic market, and to economically, politically, and legally insure the social welfare of broad sections of the public: all pensioners, servicemen, young people, and so on and so forth. It was a pity, then, that I heard no specific ideas at this congress on how to insure this social welfare.

Much attention at the congress was paid to a nationalities policy. There was talk that this should be built upon the principle of equal rights for all peoples and that a policy of retaining and democratizing a federal Russian state should be pursued, recognizing the territorial integrity and sovereign rights of all the national-state entities forming the Russian state. Aleksandr Rutskoy, who is now answering questions, has unambiguously declared that he favors a unified and indivisible Russia.

Let me remind you that this party, which has today assumed this name, used to be called the Democratic Party of Russian Communists. And because of this a sensational resolution has been adopted today on the assets of the CPSU. The resolution says that the CPSU has departed from the historical scene, that its constituent republican parties have either dissolved themselves or been banned or now exist under different names. Meanwhile, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [RCP] operating within our republic was not registered here in the proper procedure and thus in the eyes of the law did not and does not exist. In this connection the People's Party of Free Russia, previously established but under a different name, is the sole legally registered organization of communists in Russia and is the successor by right of the CPSU throughout the Russian Federation. After recognition of these rights, including naturally those to the property of the former CPSU and the RCP, this new party, the People's Party of Free Russia, intends to channel these means to social programs aimed at raising the well-being of the most poverty-stricken groups within society. Part of these means will be handed over to other parties in order to set up a real multiparty system. As you know, numerous parties are being established in our country now.

Well, the congress is more or less over; it was fairly turbulent. I do not know how productive it was. But now the party evidently believes that its main purpose is to build up its support and numerical strength, which is directly stated in the resolution, and to prepare itself for the next elections, to win them or at the very least achieve a significant level of participation in local authorities and, in the long run, in the Supreme Soviet as well.

[Announcer] Leonid Pavlovich, I get the impression that this increase in numbers will be by way of communists who were driven into the camp of the RCP?

[Lazarevich] That's right; see, this faction, when it was set up in the very beginning, consisted of communists who simply did not want the leadership of the RCP to speak on their behalf. And there are many people here who used to be in the CPSU; I know them to be long-standing communists. But let me remind you Rutskoy himself was a communist and member of the RCP Central Committee. True, when this new party, the Democratic Party of Russian Communists, was formed, he was expelled from the CPSU. Evidently, many communists will join up. But apart from all that, if you take into account the fact that we are indeed heading toward a market, then they will, of course, have to give people welfare protection.

[Announcer] I see. What they have done is to make this the focus of their manifesto, the attractive feature, so to speak. That is how it seems to me, right?

[Lazarevich] Right, of course.

[Announcer] Thank you. That was Leonid Lazarevich at the just-ended congress of the People's Party of Free Russia.

Rutskoy Views 'New Party'

PM2710215991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Oct 91 p 2

[Report by V. Nikiforova: "The DPCR Changes Its Name"]

[Text] The first Congress of the Democratic Party of the Communists of Russia [DPCR] which took place 26-27 October completed the organizational establishment of the new political organization. The new party must not

be perceived by the people either as the "CPSU in a new guise," or as the "pocket party of the president of the Russian Soviet Federation Socialist Republic," declared Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy.

The keynote speaker expounded the economic and social program of the party and observed that the pivotal idea of its social policy is "not to count on the state purse but to use for social protection the means of the entrepreneurs and commercial structures which are emerging." The precept for "drawing up programs for all our activity is man as an individual." To achieve this the party proposes "Eleven Steps." Among these are the following: "Market wages for market prices!" "Stop the rise in unemployment!" and "Protection for the weak!"

In the sphere of policy the party will promote the demarcation of powers, and the separation and balancing of legislative, executive and judicial power. In the economy it will promote the creation of a fully fledged competitive market for commodities, capital and manpower. It intends to rely on and support the midddle class (entrepreneurs, skilled workers, and the intelligentsia). A new name for the party was adopted at the congress—the "Peoples Party of Free Russia." A tactical step (at the start the registation was made using the word "communists") has been taken. Need one specifiy in what direction.

TASS Reviews Two-Day Meeting

LD2710214691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1832 GMT 27 Oct 91

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Oct (TASS)—The People's Party of Free Russia [PPFR]—this is what the former Democratic Party of Communists [DPCR] of Russia, which was founded by Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], will be called from now on. This decision was adopted at the first congress of the DPCR-PPFR which ended in Moscow today.

Delegates of the congress, which lasted two days, approved today a number of program documents of the party, and elected its leading bodies. Aleksandr Rutsoy was elected chairman of the party unanimously.

The party, set up this summer within the framework of the CPSU by a group of communist reformers who disagreed with the conservative course of the leadership of the Communist Party of the RSFSR, amended at the congress its program directions due to the fundamental changes in the political situation. It completely distanced itself from the politics and ideology of the CPSU, having declared itself to be a party of social partnership and social protection, laying no claim to an avant-garde role, and being a "pragmatic but not doctrinaire" party.

According to the political resolution of the congress which was adopted today, Russia has reached a critical landmark in its history and organized, reforming forces, which would carry out radical transformations, are necessary to get it out of the crisis, "guaranteeing civil peace and social partnership thereby." It was namely for this aim that the PPFR was set up, the resolution says.

The congress appealed to the Fifth RSFSR Congress of People's Deputies, which opens on 28 October, and to the Russian leadership to adopt a program of radical reform for the transition to a socially oriented market. The delegates resolved to uphold at the Congress of People's Deputies decisions aimed at setting up an effective system of authority and local self-government.

The addresses of the leaders of the party and of many delegates, and also the fundamental political documents, express unconditional support for the political and economic line taken by Boris Yeltsin, president of the RSFSR; however, during the congress warnings were sounded regarding the danger of the PPFR turning into "a pocket party of support for Yeltsin."

The congress delegates approved the "Resolution on the Property of the CPSU," which in the words of Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the directorate of the party, is aimed against the continuing "squandering and pilfering of party property." It asserts that the party "is the only legitimate successor to the CPSU on the territory of the RSFSR," and therefore the congress instructs the PPFR directorate "to take the necessary actions, including legal actions making it possible for it to assume the rights of ownership of the Russian share of CPSU property, including assets in foreign banks." After its rights have been recognized, the People's Party of Free Russia, the document says, will direct the resources received toward the implementation of social programs called upon to enhance the welfare of the least protected social groups.

Leftist Forces, Communists Set Up New Party

LD2710152491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1120 GMT 27 Oct 91

[By Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Oct (TASS)— A founding conference, unifying the leftist forces of socialist orientation, which had been working in the capital for two days, ended on Saturday [26 October] with the founding of a new Russian party—the Socialist Party of Working People [SPWP] [Sotsialisticheskaya Partiya Trudyashchikhsya]. Well-known USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic people's deputies, parliamentary faction "Russian Communists" and young CPSU activists who established themselves in the party during the perestroyka years initiated the summoning of the all-Russian forum. Over 300 delegates took part in the work of the conference.

Essentially, the SPWP is a legal successor of the CPSU. At the same time, according to organizers' ideas, it

should take account of all the errors and positive experience of its predecessor in order to become a genuine representative of working people's interests.

Various movements were represented at the conference that had emerged within the CPSU before and after the end of its activities, in accordance with the Russian and USSR presidents' decrees. This apparently explains some nervousness and tension in its work. All the delegates are, however, convinced of the need to create a new party of socialist orientation as soon as possible. In the opinion of the majority of speakers, it is the only step which will make possible the legalization of the activities of former party organizations in the localities and in the centers next year.

The aim of the new party is to extricate Russian society from a deep economic, political, and cultural crisis peacefully and constitutionally. The SPWP recognizes the priority of collective property but does not reject a free choice by working people of forms of property and economic management. The aim is the construction of socialism through mixed economy and political and cultural diversity in society.

The first congress of the new party is planned for December 1991.

Central Bank Official on Appearance of Currency

LD2610141391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By Aleksandr Skobelev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (TASS)—The appearance of a Russian currency is unavoidable and could take place at any moment, stated Mikhail Belyaev, chief of the Business Information Directorate of the Central Bank of Russia [CBR]. According to him, work on creating this is being carried out in secret by a group of 12-15 people. In the CBR, "no one, with the exception perhaps of the bank chairman is aware of what is going on" regarding the progress of work on a Russian ruble. The introduction of a Russian currency could be Russia's answer in the case of the former Union republics taking similar steps—the eight members of the new economic agreement. However, Belyaev does not rule out the possibility of Russia being the first to take such an action. It is the personal conviction of the information directorate chief that the introduction of a new currency would not be the best move for stabilizing the republic's economic situation. Moreover, it remains a secret exactly how the exchange of the Soviet ruble for the Russian ruble is to take place. Mikhail Belyaev said, "It would be a big mistake were it to take place by means of confiscation." The only thing that can definitely be said is that the new ruble will not be convertible in the near future. For this to happen, a normally functioning economy is needed and we still have a long time to wait for that. According to Mikhail Belyaev, at the present moment, the country's basic assets amount to 2 trillion rubles, half of which are physically worn out. Currently, there are 2,000 factors involved in converting hard currency into various groups of goods in the country. Inflation is rising at a frightening rate, by approximately 10 percent per month. The economy is steadily moving towards hyperinflation. "I am afraid that we might have to nullify the currency as was done in the 1920s when money of all denominations were made null and void, and the Russian chervonet was established which was exchangable against gold," stated Belyaev.

Local Affairs

Yeltsin Appoints Chechen-Ingush Representative

LD2410200991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin signed a decree today appointing Akhmed Naudidovich Arsanov to serve as the Russian president's representative in the republic of Chechen-Ingush.

Chechen Republic Holds Elections 27 Oct

Groznyy Reacts to Resolution

LD2610130991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1220 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Groznyy, 26 Oct (TASS)—Reactions in Groznyy to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet resolution published in the local press today have been varied. According to the document, the elections to the supreme bodies of state power in the Chechen republic planned for 27 October have no foundation in law, and their outcome cannot be recognized as legal.

The presidential and parliamentary elections in the Chechen republic planned by the Executive Committee of the Chechen National People's Congress (CNPC) contradict "not only current legislation, but also common sense", Baudi Bakhmadov, chairman of the provisional Supreme Soviet of the Chechen-Ingush Republic, stated in an interview with TASS correspondents.

"Of course, tomorrow's elections are illegal, but let them take place," thinks Sazhi Umalatova, a USSR people's deputy. "Everything must be done to defuse the situation in the republic. But it is terrible that everybody imagines that he is president."

"The right of the Chechen people to free elections is inalienable. We shall surrender it to nobody and under no pretexts," said General Dzhakhar Dudayev, head of the CNPC Executive Committee said. He did not rule out the possibility of provocations taking place in the republic on election day.

Life in the center of Groznyy today is dominated by the passions of mass meetings. Describing the situation in the city today, Supyan Avtorkhanov, a USSR people's deputy, said, in particular, that "what is going on" in the republic "is a dispute about the recipe for democratic transformations". The deputy condemned the methods of force being used by the CNPC Executive Committee, but expressed the hope that "the situation can still return to normal".

Dudayev Holds News Conference

LD2610230291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 2000 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Dzhakhar Dudayev, leader of the national movement and one of the three candidates for president of the Chechen republic, held a news conference for Soviet and foreign correspondents in Groznyy today. It has been already reported that the presidential and parliamentary elections have been scheduled by the Executive Committee of the Chechen Congress for tomorrow, 27 October.

Touching upon the mission of the representative of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic president in Chechen-Ingush, Dudayev said that the Russian leadership should not send its emissaries to Groznyy without the consent of the Executive Committee of the National Congress of the Chechen People. He called this an attempt to introduce governor's rule in the republic.

Dudayev added that the Chechen people have embarked on the path to self-determination and have no intention of breaking off relations with Russia. On the contrary, it will continue the further development of interrelations in all spheres. He stressed that nothing is threatening the Russian-speaking population and there is no need to leave the places which have been settled.

According to the presidential candidate, there will no division of people by nationality, religion and political convictions in the future republic. According to Dudayev, he is not trying to divide the Chechen and the Ingush peoples.

Arsanov Appeals to Homeland

LD2710184591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Unscheduled "TV Inform" report]

[Excerpts] Esteemed viewers, we present a broadcast by Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic People's Deputy Akhmed Arsanov, representative of the Russian president in the Chechen-Ingush republic, which we received from Groznyy today. We apologize in advance for the poor quality of the video recording.

[Begin Arsanov recording] Hello there, viewers, my fellow-countrymen, my Chechen and Ingush brothers and sisters, Russians, and all citizens who live on the territory of my Chechen-Ingush homeland. Do not be alarmed, but I must tell you right away that regrettably in my own republic I have been trying to get to speak to you for 24 hours. Yesterday, from eight in the evening to 2300 I waited my turn to speak to you. Even then I was not given permission to speak. Some sort of guardsmen with automatic weapons and rifles stood there.

I begin this appeal of mine in a completely different tone today. I want to make a very important request to you now. Preserve our Chechen-Ingush homeland. Voting at the forthcoming elections should be for Chechen-Ingush as a whole, and our single [word indistinct] people should not be split. I have appealed and appeal now for us to keep our people as it is. Let it not be split. Let us not declare a Chechen republic. Let us not hold the illegally organized elections that have been set for tomorrow, 27 October, and which are still being planned. That is the big request that I make to you now.

I do not know if I will finish this speech or not. I must say this above all. Do not vote in these elections. Do not split our Chechen-Ingush people into two peoples. I am very profoundly convinced that it will not come off. The extremists will not succeed. I appeal forcefully once again to everyone involved in these elections not to go ahead with this. Our people would not forgive us. I forcefully ask you to keep this people as a single people. Don't act in haste. In a month or two's time we shall hold joint elections for the Chechen-Ingush parliament, and if we do that we will be performing a noble deed. We will be performing a service for our people. The generations will thank us. Our fathers and grandfathers will rejoice. [end recording]

Arsanov says that 500 million rubles are received from Russia for pensions. How else will pensions be paid? The people must be told this. Around 70 percent of Chechen-Ingush's gas and 30 percent of the electric power comes from Russia. Of the 16 million tonnes of oil refined in Chechen-Ingush, only 4 million tonnes are actually produced in the republic. A total of 136,000 tonnes of flour is needed a year, but the republic can only produce 60-70,000 tonnes of grain for producing flour. The rest comes from Russia. He says he is a Chechen himself, and the fate of the republic affects him deeply.

[Begin Arsanov recording] When we decide the Ingush question definitively, we will hold a referendum among the Chechen people and a referendum of all the Ingush people, and then we will decide the question of the existence of a Chechen state or an Ingush state, or a separate Chechen-Ingush state. But without doing our sacred duty as Chechens and Ingush, without reinstating Ingush lands and resolving the question of long-suffering Chechen-Ingush, and of the long-suffering Chechen and Ingush peoples, and particularly the issue of the Ingush lands, we cannot today hold elections to the Chechen republic.

I have to tell you that on 24 October the Supreme Soviet ruled elections set for 27 October to be illegal, contrary to our legislation and inconsistent with the constitution

of Chechen-Ingush, Russia and so on. This must have been published in the papers. But let's put constitutions on one side in settling this. These are our own affairs. Do not do what you are preparing to do. We must fulfill this decision, the Supreme Soviet decision, signed, I might add, by our fellow-countryman Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, that splendid son of the Chechen-Ingush people. Let us take account of his name too. When yesterday I was talking to Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, he asked me to convey his best wishes to all the peoples living in Chechen-Ingush territory. He said to me: Appeal to your people on my behalf, too. Appeal to your people and use your authority. I think the people will listen to you. Ask our people not to hold these elections.

And that is my message to you. [end recording]

Some Polls Open in Republic

LD2710185791 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Despite the fact that the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet has decided that the election of a president and parliament in the Chechen republic do not have a legal basis and their results cannot be recognized as lawful, polling stations in Chechen-Ingush opened today, although not everywhere.

The confrontation continues in Groznyy, TASS correspondents report. As before, two noisy thousands-strong rallies are taking place in the town center. Today's elections give me a feeling of indignation and impotence, said a lecturer at a local university who TASS correspondents met on the Sheikh Mansur [formerly Lenin] Square, where the opposition is gathering. This is nothing more than a farce.

The people rallying by the Council of Ministers building hold a different opinion. Here, in the opposite camp, in the building of the former republican party committee, the central electoral commission is actively working.

Balloting Proceeding Calmly

LD2710232491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] In Chechen-Ingushetia, the elections of the president and parliament of the Chechen republic are proceeding calmly in all rayons. This was stated by Eli Ilyasov, a member of the Chechen Executive Committee. In an interview for a Russian Information Agency correspondent, he reported that about 40 percent of the Russian-speaking population living in the capital of the republic is taking part in the elections. According to representatives from rayons of the republic who spoke at a meeting in Groznyy, more than 80 percent of the population of the Chechen Republic have taken part in the ballot.

Meanwhile, according to Ruslan Tatiyev, chairman of the rayon soviet, in Sunzhenskiy Rayon, which is a matter of contention between the Chechens and Ingushesh, about 10 percent of the population of 74,000 took part in the ballot. Polling stations were opened here in only two inhabited points out of 13—the villages of Assinovskaya and Sernovodskoye. Attempts to open polling stations in the village of Nesterovskaya, in violation of a decision by the rural soviet, were foiled by the law enforcement bodies.

In the view of Ruslan Tatiyev, the very fact of the Chechen Executive Committee holding the elections may intensify the confrontation in the republic between supporters and opponents of the committee.

Supporters Praise Dudayev Victory

LD2810042391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0357 GMT 28 Oct 91

[By Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Groznyy, 28 Oct (TASS)—Intense and chaotic firing was heard last night in downtown Groznyy from submachine guns, machine guns, pistols, and hunting rifles. Fortunately, it was into the air. This is how Dzhakhar Dudayev's supporters, having learned that preliminary data indicated that he has been elected the first president of the Chechen republic, gave distinctive expression to their joy. General Dudayev (47) organized a small, late-night news conference.

He stressed that the election of a president and parliament was a qualitatively new step in the lives of the Chechen people and the logical end to the very difficult, historic path toward their independence.

At the same time, he told the TASS correspondents, political blockades and provocations spilling over into state terror should be expected. Dzhakhar Dudayev especially noted: "We must show world civilization that having become free, we become more necessary not only for our own neighbors but also for other peoples, as well."

The TASS correspondents are conveying this news in the middle of the night, Moscow time. The joyful firing outside is not subsiding.

Jewish Oblast Proclaimed Autonomous Republic

LD2510163191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1436 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By Viktor Gorelov]

[Text] Birobidzhan, 25 Oct (TASS)—The Jewish Autonomous Oblast in the Far East has been proclaimed an autonomous republic, with the rights of a subject of the Russian Federation. This decision was adopted at a session of the Soviet of People's Deputies of the Jewish Autonomous Oblast today. A final decision, however, should be adopted by the Russian president and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet.

Khabarovsk Meeting Urges Far East Republic

OW2410222191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2109 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The conference in Khabarovsk of Far-Eastern peoples' deputies (the Khabarovsk and Primorski region, the Kamchatka, Magadan and Sakhalin and Amur Districts) have practically presented the presidents of Russia and the Union with an ultimatum. An "IF" [INTERFAX] correspondent reports that the document addressed to Yeltsin and Gorbachev demands that if the necessary means for normal life were not injected into the Far East region then it would have "the right to absolute autonomy".

The head of the administration of the Sakhalin District, Valentin Fedorov, said in this regard that in his opinion the establishment of a Far-East republic was necessary not as a vehicle for the realisation of local political ambitions but as a means of putting pressure on Moscow. In an interviev with an "IF" correspondent Fedorov said, "We can expect nothing from Moscow and therefore the revival of Russia must be begun from Sakhalin and the Far East".

Komi Assumes Right To Veto USSR Decisions

LD2410224391 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Komi Soviet Socialist Republic today adopted an interesting amendment to the republic's Constitution. Under it the Komi parliament may veto decisions by the presidents of the USSR and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.

Tatar Supreme Soviet Passes Independence Act

OW2410223591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2109 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The session of the Tatar Supreme Soviet has passed an act on state independence of the republic. The act refers to the declaration of state sovereignty of the Tatar Autonomous Republic and to the fact that the republic has no quota in the USSR Supreme Soviet and is denied a right to sign the Treaty on Economic Union of Sovereign States.

In view of that parliament has ruled to prepare and hold a national referendum in the republic on the status of Tatarstan.

External Affairs

Yeltsin, Uzbekistan President Sign Trade Pact

LD2610224291 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Report on 26 October signing of Russian-Uzbekistan trade and economic agreement, incorporating recorded comments by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Test] Today Boris Yeltsin and Islam Karimov, presidents of Russia and Uzbekistan, signed a communique on the results of the talks between the official delegations of the two republics. An agreement was also concluded on the principles of trade and economic cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan. After the signing, the presidents held a small news conference. Perhaps the main question was one that interests all of us: Who is feeding whom?

[Yeltsin] This is a legally sound [polnopravnyy] treaty of two sovereign states, and no one is feeding anyone. Or, at least, feeding takes place on principles of parity, which is very important.

[Correspondent] Boris Yeltsin also believes that bilateral economic agreements are more effective and more efficient, especially during the initial stage, than multilateral ones. Yet, the most difficult thing in mutual relations between the two republics will be to put the agreement into operation.

[Yeltsin] The main thing now is to implement what has been signed. What has been signed is the limit of what we can give each other today.

Leaders Laud Accords

LD2610222991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Report on 26 October Moscow meeting between Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, incorporating recorded comments by Yeltsin and Karimov; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] In Moscow today Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov signed a cooperation agreement.

Russian enterprises today are experiencing a severe shortage of Uzbek cotton, silk and nonferrous metals. The population needs vegetables and fruit. Uzbekistan needs tractors, machinery, fuel, timber and metal. There is a long history of friendly relations between these peoples. Uzbekistan has a population of a million Russian speakers. Under the documents just signed by the presidents of Russia and Uzbekistan these ties move to a new level—that of independent sovereign states combining their resources to deal with problems of each of their peoples and to that of economic union.

[Yeltsin] These documents that have just been signed envisage practically a doubling of consumer goods supplies from Uzbekistan to Russia. That is, there is a clear and direct gain for the peoples of Russia from the signing of these documents.

[Karimov] It is only in friendship with Russia, only in preserving our respect for Russia, only in economic cooperation that we see a way out of the most severe crisis which is afflicting the whole country, Russia and Uzbekistan, as a result of the one-sided hyperatrophied development throughout all the years of Soviet power.

Lukin Interviewed on Relations With Uzbekistan

LD2510192591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1935 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Interview with Vladimir P. Lukin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic International Affairs Committee, by political observer Aleksandr Tikhomirov; place and date not given: "Point of View"—live or recorded]

[Text] [Tikhomirov] It is simply amazing what we have lived to see, and what we evidently will live to see in the future. In NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, we have this headline: Yeltsin Has Discussed With the Military the Possibility of a Nuclear Strike Against the Ukraine. Is that really true?

[Lukin] What can I say? Of course you ought to ask Boris Nikolayevich about that, and not me, but I am perfectly convinced that it is utter nonsense and mumbo-jumbo. The president of Russia could not have talked about that. I know well his views and positions on the subject of relations between the republics. It is simply out of the question.

However, even the way that the issue was raised in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, a rather lively newspaper which is inclined to enjoy itself with sensational stories, points to the grave and complex state of our interrepublican relations in many areas, but particularly with our brothers in the Ukraine.

[Tikhimirov] May I ask you a question? For several years I covered the subject of the life and work of the strategic rocket forces. I know that as we speak, many officers are sitting beside buttons at underground command posts in silos in the Ukraine, on permanent watch. Whose orders will they carry out?

[Lukin] I am sure that they must carry out the orders of the central strategic command. If this is not the case, it means that we have not one nuclear power, but at least four. It means that we have, in the most categorical, unilateral, and provocative manner, broken the nuclear nonproliferation agreement, which the Soviet Union has signed and which nobody has repealed. It means that we have become a power in the world community, but one that is immeasurably and many times more dangerous than, say, Saddam Husayn.

[Tikhomirov] The four powers are Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan?

[Lukin] Of course. I am well aware that now, in the present situation, central control of strategic forces must be arranged in such a way as to let all interested sovereign republics participate in strategic planning. But that is one side of the matter. The second side of it is that this planning, this participation, must be carried out in a way that gives nobody, and primarily our main nuclear partner, the United States, the slightest suspicion that we have somehow abandoned the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. That would be a catastrophe, a radical change in the international state of affairs, and a radical deterioration in relations with all our nuclear partners.

[Tikhomirov] Vladimir Petrovich, you are chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet International Affairs Committee. The situation has changed so that we now describe Russia's relations with the republics as international affairs.

[Lukin] That is undoubtedly the case for Russia. For Russia, international policy, or foreign policy, starts right at her borders. That is natural.

[Tikhomirov] Let me ask you a frank question. I myself, together with you, voted for the sovereignty of Russia, for its independence, at the first Congress of People's Deputies. Perhaps we set the example. The same for the Ukraine, which today claims to own the nuclear weapons on its territory.

[Lukin] You know, when I voted for the sovereignty of Russia, I voted for the civilized sovereignty of Russia within the framework of the Soviet Union. Among other things, you will remember that both you and I voted for a sovereignty with which we immediately pledged ourselves to delegate a portion of our powers to the Union bodies. And that is the point of our declaration.

[Tikhomirov] Then we adopted a decision on the distribution of functions between the republic and the Union.

[Lukin] Certainly. And when we did this, I think that I, and I am sure that you, had in mind not least our status as a nuclear power, our nuclear missile status. We had in mind that in the world community we are a very serious unit, and that we must not behave in the world community like a bull in a china shop. But unfortunately repeating the status of Soviet man—his long tempering, which has resulted in his behaving like a wolf among wolves, in my opinion—unfortunately is now yielding a throwback in relations between republics and in the relations of a number of republics to the world community.

[Tikhomirov] I would like to draw attention to an extremely dangerous fact. Has anyone asked the officers who are on duty at the underground missile stations who they want to belong to—the Ukraine, Russia, or the Union? They are governed by rocket troop regulations,

their tenets and rules, and if they disagree with something a highly explosive situation, in nuclear terms, could arise. Please.

[Lukin] I believe that the officers are aware and very responsible. I think that many of them have possibly a rather greater sense of responsibility than certain politicians, to look at our republics. I am therefore convinced that they will only carry out orders from their leadership, from their single strategic command, centralized from the center. If that is not the case, it would be a disaster for the whole of humankind. We must keep in mind that we are, undoubtedly, becoming sovereign—but sovereign not in a vacuum, but in the world community with all its problems. Second, we must keep in mind that we are part of the nuclear nonproliferation process, part of the nuclear accords process, and if we should withdraw from these it would be a catastrophe—and not for us alone. All of this is clear. I am convinced, I think, that we must create a structure for nuclear planning, our strategic concepts and their implementation, that would include a collective council of all the republics. However, this planning should be carried out within a single and strictly coordinated center, coordinated between ourselves and between all the interested parties in the world community.

[Tikhomirov] Recently we have been constantly late in our actions. I know that just a month ago even the general staff of the USSR Armed Forces did not have a clear plan for dealing with nuclear missiles if a break-up occurred—either with the creation of a federation or confederation, or the emergence of completely independent states. To ensure that we are not too late, is it not high time we started talks with the Ukraine on the mutual reduction of strategic armaments, just as we are doing with the United States?

[Lukin] I think that discussions on strategic matters between us and the Ukraine have effectively already started. The day after the putsch, our delegation, of which I was a member and which was headed by Vice President Rutskoy, visited the Ukraine, and we held talks with the Ukrainian political leadership. We adopted a communique. The communique said clearly and plainly that neither of the contracting parties would make any actions in the military- strategic sphere without agreeing them with the other. Unfortunately, I cannot state that this agreement is being observed. We are prepared to observe it, and are willing to hold immediate consultations. I think that such consultations are essential. They are essential, preferably on the level of the State Council, on a bilateral basis, between us and the Ukrainians, and on a quadrilateral basis among the republics in whose territory nuclear forces are based. They are necessary, and I think the USSR president should coordinate them as the man in whose hands is the famous black briefcase.

[Tikhomirov] I repeat my question in horror. Is it possible that Yeltsin will be discussing with the military the possibility of a nuclear strike against the Ukraine, and Kravchuk will be discussing with the military the possibility of a nuclear strike against Russia?

[Lukin] I repeat once again: This is nonsense and gibberish, at least as far as Russia is concerned, and I think from the Ukrainian point of view, too, if only because of the very clear strategic reality that in mounting a strike even against the United States we would be mounting it against ourselves. The same can be said of the Ukraine, only to an immeasurably greater extent. Chernobyl affected our three fraternal republics. So it is not just gibberish. I would call it Herostratus-like gibberish [Herostratus burned down the temple of Ephesus to make his name immortal], which of course cannot be taken seriously in Russia, and never will.

[Tikhomirov] Nonetheless, it is very sad that we are talking about this today, almost a little seriously.

[Lukin] Absolutely. Absolutely. Possessing certain experience, one might say, in international affairs, I very insistently call our neighbors, our brothers, whom I greatly respect and love, to responsibility. Let's cool our ardor. Let's, so to speak, calm down a little [privedem svoi zrachki v takoye boleye ili meneye normalnoye sostoyaniye] and start to talk about serious questions like serious, civilized people. A little trust. We have, after all, already achieved trust on a broader level. Why can't we achieve trust among ourselves?

International Affairs

Kozyrev Signs Relations Protocol With Estonia

LD2410223591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1655 GMT 24 Oct 91

[By Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (TASS)— The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and the Estonian Republic have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the level of embassies. A protocol to this effect was signed in Moscow today by Andrey Kozyrev and Lennart Meri, the heads of the two republics' foreign policy departments.

Negotiations between the foreign ministers preceded the signing of the document. A joint press statement was issued on their results. In it, the sides emphasized that until the issue of mutual borders is settled by treaty both republics "will proceed on the basis of the status quo" in this sphere. Andrey Kozyrev and Lennart Meri also expressed a joint desire "not to allow any actions capable of complicating the situation in the border areas and to help create a climate of stability and cooperation in the interests of both countries and the local population".

Today a protocol was also signed between the foreign ministries of Russia and Estonia on the start of negotiations on drawing up agreements to protect the rights of each of the sides' citizens residing in the territory of the other side and to provide them with consular services

and also a treaty on citizenship issues. The negotiations are due to start as soon as possible and will be held in turn in Moscow and Tallinn.

After Russia's recognition at the end of August of the independence of the three Baltic republics, Latvia was the first to establish diplomatic relations with her. During the current month Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia established diplomatic relations with the USSR.

Republics Criticize Russia's Economic Policy

OW2810085091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Plenopotentiaries of the former Soviet republics—the Ukraine, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Moldavia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia at the end of a coordinating conference in St. Petersburg said the Russian Government's economic policy was derailing the implementation of the Interrepublican Economic Treaty and other commitments.

They said Russia's new quotas and licences for exports to other republics and its plan for account-settling at world prices from early next year were among its most destructive actions.

Yeltsin Conducts Phone Conversation With Bush

LD2510202591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1919 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has told U.S. President George Bush that American businessmen can act boldly on the Russian market.

In a telephone conversation which took place today at the initiative of Boris Yeltsin, the U.S. leader expressed his satisfaction with the steps taken by the Russian president to speed up economic reforms and his conviction that American business circles will view these steps with satisfaction. This was announced by the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] president's information department.

The package of radical economic reforms which Boris Yeltsin plans to present at the Fifth Congress of the RSFSR People's Deputies on 28 October includes, in particular, the liberalization of prices and the freeing of wages in the republic.

The Russian and U.S. presidents have also reached agreement on further bilateral contacts and the exchange of special messages. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will visit the United States within the framework of these agreements.

Khasbulatov Says Laws Safeguard Investments

OW2510004091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting with business people and government officials in the State of Carolina (USA) the acting president of the Russian Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Khasbulatov, announced that the laws adopted by the Russian parliament safeguard foreign investment. He added that these laws create opportunities for foreign companies in Russia and lay down favourable conditions.

The American side presented Mr. Khasbulatov with souvenirs and expressed a readiness for business and humanitarian cooperation with Russia.

Supreme Soviet Debates Relations With Japan

OW2410000991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2050 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Council of Nationalities of Russia's Supreme Soviet passed a resolution on Wednesday [23 October] which emphasizes that it is advisable for the Supreme Soviet to consider the issue of broadening Russian-Japanese relations.

The resolution approves efforts aimed [at] preparing and negotiating an Agreement on Peace and Cooperation with Japan.

In a speech before parliament, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev pointed out that the absence of "a commonly accepted border with Japan represents a major drawback of the Soviet Union's foreign policy."

The minister noted, however that recent time has seen a dramatic shift in relations with Japan, which resulted in Tokyo pledging $2.5 billion in financial assistance to the Soviet Union.

The governor of the island of Sakhalin, Mr. Valentin Fedorov, said during the hearings that the stance taken by the republic's Foreign Ministry results in a new crisis area being formed in Russia, namely in the Far East and the Sakhalin Region. He ruled out the possibility of any territorial concessions to Tokyo.

The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Russian parliament, Mr. Vladimir Lukin, was emphatic that he is against handing over the Kuril Islands to Japan as a matter of principle, but he also urged deputies to refrain from "primitive solutions" of this matter. In the view of Mr. Lukin, Russia's foreign policy has so far been free of major blunders. "We still have the Kuril Islands and we also have the Japanese pledge of $2.5bn in aid," he said.

Kamchatka Appeal Protests Return of Islands

OW2510170191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1453 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 25 KYODO—The parliament of the Soviet Far East province of Kamchatka on Friday [25 October] adopted an appeal against the return of four Soviet-held islands claimed by Japan, the Russian Information Agency reported.

The appeal addressed to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin said the return of the disputed islands would bring great economic loss to the Russian Federation and the Soviet Far East provinces, the agency reported.

A strong antireturn movement has also been conducting activities in Sakhalin Province where the disputed four islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai islets—are located.

Kozyrev, German Counterpart on Bilateral Links

LD2510211591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2005 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—Issues connected with the development of bilateral direct links between Russia and Germany, the problems of Soviet Germans, as well as security and arms control were at the center of attention at the meeting which took place today in Moscow between Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] foreign minister, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, head of the FRG Foreign Relations Department, who has arrived here on a working visit.

The German foreign minister, in a short conversation with journalists, assessed the talks which have taken place as very positive. He expressed the conviction that decisive political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union will have a positive response in the West. As far as the FRG is concerned, H.-D. Genscher stated, it supports in word and deed the implementation of these reforms and democratic transformations.

Touching upon the issues of arms control, the minister spoke in favor of complying with the bilateral and international agreements which have been concluded previously in this field. He revealed Germany's interest in the creation of an autonomous republic of Germans in the Volga Region, and underlined that the FRG Government has the intention of giving all possible support to the fulfilling of this project. H.-D. Genscher also pointed out that he is eagerly awaiting the visit of Boris Yeltsin, Russian president, to Germany, planned for the end of November. The whole complex of existing problems is planned to be discussed during this visit.

Andrey Kozyrev in turn underlined that all the issues raised during the talks were put forward in a spirit of partnership and mutual interest. He expressed the conviction that central control over the army is necessary—in particular, control of nuclear weapons. We will continue, the minister stated, to speak in favor of nuclear arms reduction in accordance with the Soviet-U.S. top level agreements.

Fyodorov Denies Decision To Extradite Honecker

LD2510210891 Moscow TASS in English 1857 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—The Russian minister of justice, Nikolay Fyodorov, today repudiated press reports that the Russian leadership had decided to extradite former East German leader Erich Honecker to Germany.

The minister, replying in parliament to questions from MP [member of parliament] Sergey Baburin, said the Russian leadership was prepared to consider the issue of Honecker's stay in the republic. The Russian Justice Ministry's view is that only court can decide his future, he pointed out.

Fyodorov believes that Union authorities have the right to repatriate Honecker because his stay here has not been approved by Russia.

According to the official version, Honecker is in the USSR for treatment, Fyodorov said. But his recent interview with German television that lasted several hours raises doubts about his "poor health." "Erich Honecker's voluntary return to Germany would be the best solution to the problem," Fyodorov said.

Fedorov Studying Proposal To Head Government

LD2710111191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0855 GMT 27 Oct 91

[By Viktor Lebedev]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (TASS)—Professor Svyatoslav Fedorov, who is currently in the United Arab Emirates on a business trip, confirmed today in a conversation with a TASS correspondent in Abu Dhabi that he is studying the proposal by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to head the Russian Government. "Boris Yeltsin did indeed make this proposal to me two days ago in a telephone conversation. The idea needs to be thoroughly thought over," the well-known ophthalmologist said.

If Svyatoslav Fedorov's government is created in Russia, it, according to the candidate for prime minister, would set itself the task of building popular capitalism in the republic on the basis of preferable development of collective-private property. "I am in favor of privatising state enterprises and converting them into joint stock companies, the well-known ophthalmologist noted. The experience of the world economy has showed that only these enterprises, created on a collective-private basis, can compete with the private sector and ensure the rise of the economy and price restraint."

Svyatoslav Fedorov intends to return to Moscow on 31 October. He stated that the decision to accept or to refuse the proposal to become the prime minister will depend on the program of the Russian president, or the outcome of conversations with the vice president and the chairman of the parliament, and on the positions of the highest legislative body in the republic.

The world-renowned surgeon-ophthalmologist, who is head of the inter-branch scientific-technical complex "Eye Microsurgery" (MNTK), has been implementing his economic and professional developments on the basis of this joint stock enterprise for several years already. Fedorov mentioned in the conversation that the labor productivity at MNTK is eight times higher than at other Soviet hospitals and three and a half times higher than an analogos index in the United States. "My principle is: Money should not be received, but earned, by having a share in income and profit," the professor stressed.

Defense Official Comments on Joining NATO

LD2510182291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1633 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—We did not consider any questions concerning Russia joining NATO. This was said in an interview today with a TASS correspondent by Major General Aleksandr Tsalko, deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] State Committee for Defense Affairs. He was commenting on the trip made to NATO headquarters in Brussels by a delegation of state figures from Russia. "We were there as observers, studying the North Atlantic alliance's working systems," he added.

The statement was prompted by a report on Russian Television's "Vesti" news program on Thursday [24 October] evening that the RSFSR might possibly become a member of NATO in the near future. As Aleksandr Tsalko sees it, even if such ideas were to arise in Russia's corridors of power they would be half-baked. The matter of Russia joining the North Atlantic alliance, and therefore of its military-political integration with NATO member-countries, demands an extremely well-considered approach—the discrepancy in levels of economic potential between Russia and the West is too large. For that reason it would be possible for the RSFSR to be part of NATO only at the consultative level, he noted.

Belorussia

Minsk Protesters Demand Government Resignation

LD2710230191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Report by studio correspondent Leonid Sviridov from Minsk]

[Excerpts] Our Minsk correspondent, Leonid Sviridov, reports that this week in Belarus [Belorussia] has been eventful.

[Sviridov] [Passage omitted] On the republican capital's Lenin Square, a protest rally is in progress to demand the resignation of the Supreme Soviet, and the adoption of a new law on elections and the nationalization of party assets. An entire shanty town has appeared on the square. It is probably not much fun spending the night in tents, but the people are not complaining: They have brought along warm clothing, food, and some do their cooking on the square itself. The protesters say that they will stay put until the victorious end, that is, until the end of the republic's Supreme Soviet session.

When I asked whether they want to meet parliamentary chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, the initiator of the protest, Viktor Zabolotskiy replied: I suppose that the chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet should be aware of public opinion, but if he does not think that we are the public, then he will not turn up.

Last Friday, the people's deputies in the Belarus parliament were cursing Radio Rossii. True, it later transpired that Radio Rossii had not done anything wrong at all. Yet the people's elected representatives continued to be enthusiastically nasty about Radio Rossii, the "Vesti" program, and generally said that they do not trust us. Pity, then, that the deputies themselves more and more frequently get it wrong and then do not even apologize, their excuse being: Well, yes, he was wrong, but then everyone knew that anyway.

The food situation in Minsk has gotten so bad that the city authorities have taken action. Once again, you have to show your passport or any other form of ID when buying essentials, food, and otherwise. If you want, you can show your shopper's ID card. Eggs have disappeared from sale, and supplies of dairy goods have started getting erratic, while large-scale exports of food to other regions are in full swing. Millions of eggs cross the border into Poland, and all tickets to Moscow are sold out a week in advance. Ten eggs at the market costs around 50 rubles, but in Minsk only two rubles. A huge markup, as you can see for yourself. For the first time, I've been asked to show my passport in a bread shop. So, life is becoming better, and more fun.

According to the republic's State Committee for Statistics, the subsistence minimum with account taken of September's price changes comes to 280 rubles. The official trade unions calculate that the figure should be 420 rubles. Life is not what it used to be.

Council of Ministers Adopts Military Draft

LD2610160491 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belorussian 1400 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Summary] The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belorussia has adopted a resolution on the next draft of citizens for obligatory military service for a fixed period in October-December 1991. Young people will do military service in border, internal and railway troops deployed on the territory of the Republic of Belorussia. Special notice was taken of young men who were affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe. They will be sent to military units which have nothing to do with nuclear installations and will be deployed outside the contaminated territories. Young men working in agriculture will be sent to military units starting 1 December.

The resolution envisages sending young men primarily for completing formations, units, and subunits deployed on the territory of the republic. Measures will also be taken for the young men who are studying military specialities in various training military units and centers to do further military service on the territory of our republic.

The staff of the Belorussian Military District has been instructed to submit to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belorussia information on the results of the conscription by 15 December.

Moldova

Dnestr To Elect 'Own President' 1 Dec

LD2710165891 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 25 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The leadership of the Dnestr Republic has decided that the republic will not take part in the elections of the president of Moldova, but will elect its own president on 1 December.

'Supreme Economic Council' Created

LD2710202891 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1500 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] A Supreme Economic Council of Moldova under the president of the republic, headed by Prime Minister Valeriy Muravskiy, has been created through a decree issued by Mircha Snegur, head of the republic. Its task is to define the main direction of state economic policy under the conditions of the transition to a market economy. Two foreign economic scholars—from Great Britain and Romania—are included in the council.

Ukraine

Reportage on Republic Nuclear Weapons Issue

Kravchuk Supports Central Control

LD2510210791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Evidently the rumors of a possible nuclear duel between the Ukraine and Russia which were launched into news orbit by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA have created quite a stir. The wave of repercussion is receding, but the need for explanations remains.

Many people in our country, including, of course, Odessa, are worried today by the problem of the Ukraine's participation in the economic community, the future of the Armed Forces and the nuclear arsenals of the sovereign republic. At a meeting in Odessa military okrug today, Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk said what he thought of the report in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of an allegedly possible exchange of nuclear strikes between Russia and the Ukraine:

[Begin Kravchuk recording] This is a crude provocation. The intention to set the Ukrainians and Russians against each other is a hopeless undertaking. We want the strategic military nuclear space to be controlled by the center alone. We lay no claim to the nuclear button. It must be in the hands of one person. That is our principled position. We have on Ukrainian soil a Russian population of 11.5 million. That is centuries, it is people whose land is here, it is a blending of history, culture and way of life, by all, all together. No one can believe this inhuman stupidity which is now being dished out by the media. We had, have, and will have the most friendly relations with Russia. [end recording]

Desire To Retain Weapons Denied

OW2510211491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A representative from the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry told an "INTERFAX" correspondent that the rumor recently spread in the mass media on the Ukraine's desire to keep atomic weapons on its territory and to become a member of the "nuclear club" was clearly misinformation. The Ukrainian surmised that this misinformation was spread with the goal of discrediting the Ukraine and its foreign relations, to undermine the process of establishing statehood, and to distort the true position of the republic and its Supreme Soviet in relation to atomic weapons. The misinformation on Kiev's nuclear ambitions was also meant to throw a shadow on the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the Ukraine, in which the republic's intentions to remain a neutral and non-nuclear state are emphasized. As the diplomat underlined, this intention was entirely reaffirmed by the Supreme Soviet on October 24th in a special announcement on the "non-nuclear status of the Ukraine."

Official on Nuclear Control Policy

LD2610114191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 0630 GMT 26 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] The Ukraine's decisions, first not to sign the Economic Treaty and then to set up its own Army, as well as the existence of enormous stocks of nuclear weapons deployed on its territory and rumors of their possible privatization have prompted a cautious and wary reaction both inside the country and abroad. A special declaration by the Ukrainian parliament today made everything clear.

[D.V. Pavlichko, chairman of Foreign Affairs Commission of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet] The situation has developed in such a way that these weapons are located on the territory of the Ukraine, and many Western politicians are afraid that the emergence of independent states on the territory of the Soviet Union could lead to the outbreak of a nuclear conflict. This idea was put into the world's head by the center, which claimed that they could not leave because there are nuclear weapons in various republics and that would be very dangerous.

Therefore, the parliament of the Ukraine has said clearly and precisely that, today the nuclear weapons deployed on the territory of the Ukraine are under the control of the structures of the former Soviet Union: in other words, the control of the USSR Ministry of Defense. The parliament of the Ukraine declares that it, the Ukraine, does not wish to have control over those weapons in respect of, so to speak, the possibility of using them. We have declared only our right to have our own control over the nonuse of those weapons. This means that we, a state on whose territory nuclear weapons are located, bear responsibility for those weapons and, strictly speaking, for ensuring that they are never used until they are destroyed.

Defense Official on Nuclear Control

LD2610100291 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Interview with Ihor Derkach, Ukrainian people's deputy and member of the Ukrainian Commission for Defense and Internal Security, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] When our radio listeners hear discussion of the draft laws on the defense and Armed Forces of the Ukraine it makes an impression that these issues of defense and creation of our own army and own armed forces are not well thought-out and prepared. What is your opinion?

[Derkach] Very many issues have been thought-out. Today, if one recollects the speech by Defense Minister Morozov, at the closed session, a great number of details there are absolutely well thought-out and he has corresponding models and mechanisms already elaborated. However the thing is that there is no political decision, so something major is missing—something, which would make it possible for him to develop this, is missing. That is to say that right now he should take over leadership of the Armed Forces are situated on the territory of the Ukraine.

USSR President Gorbachev and Defense Minister Shaposhnikov are just constantly inflaming the situation in this respect. They are constantly making statements about the need for unified Armed Forces. They are taking away from the Ukraine any ideas and any right to form its own Armed Forces and at the same time they say they agree to make some concessions and hold some negotiations. This is a typical position of Russian great-power chauvinism. Therefore, it is now very difficult for the minister of defense, very difficult. This should be settled at the highest state level: Either Kravchuk or Fokin must tackle this during negotiations at the State Council with President Gorbachev.

As far as the preparation is concerned, I want to tell you that there are already a great number of officers who wish to work in various ways. Simply, this is not publicized because there is no need for that. The military sphere requires specific activity and does not require these issues to be submitted now to the Supreme Soviet.

[Correspondent] What about this concept? Please, if you could give literally just one detail.

[Derkach] As far as the concept is concerned one detail is that one cannot talk now about the collective strategic defensce at all, because there are no elaborated and clear cut Ukrainian interests, there is no Ukrainian military science which would [words indistinct] form this strategic defense. It is necessary now, in my opinion, to take under control all nuclear forces which are in the Ukraine and start negotiations with France, Russia, Germany, Britain, and the United States on issues of their reduction and complete destruction. We cannot allow, as one deputy said, that Russia, having crushed the Union structures, will in fact control nuclear weapons on the territory of the Ukraine. This indeed would be suicide for the sovereign Ukrainian state.

Moreover, policy can change and there could be a threat from beyond the Ukraine's borders! That is the most important thing today, in my view,—this collective strategic defense. The issue of the armed forces is a separate issue and it should be settled in accordance with these laws which I support completely; and they should be adopted.

Report Called 'Misinformation'

OW2810093191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0803 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Report by Diplomatic Panorama's M. Mayorov and I. Porshev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature for "October 25, 1991;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The TASS report that has received wide coverage by all major news agencies in the world concerning the Ukraine's alleged desire to keep nuclear weapons on its territory and join the nuclear club is misinformation of pure water, said a senior Ukrainian Foreign Ministry staffer to DP [Diplomatic Panorama] over the telephone. He expressed the opinion that the TASS report had been aimed at discrediting the Ukraine, its foreign policy, undermining the Ukraine's progress to full-fledged statehood, misrepresenting the republic's and its Supreme Soviet's stand on nuclear arms and deceiving the international community. In addition, the false report concerning the Ukraine's alleged nuclear ambitions was intended to cast a shadow over the republican Sovereignty Declaration that emphasizes the republic's plans to become a nonnuclear neutral state. According to the diplomat, this intention received full confirmation in a ruling "On the Ukraine's Non-Nuclear Status" passed by the republic's Supreme Soviet on October 24.

Addressing whether the Ukraine plans to use the services of the Union Foreign Ministry, the diplomat said that Kiev had yet to decide whether the structure should or should not be salvaged in the Ukraine. He remarked, however, that the USSR Foreign Ministry's diplomatic staff are well-qualified and, Kiev believes, they can provide required help to the foreign ministries in the sovereign republics. The Ukrainian diplomat did not rule out the possibility that Kiev's attitude toward whether the Union Foreign Ministry should continue or not will become clear before November 5, the date of the next session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Sovereign Republics. He confirmed, however, that the Ukraine planned to assume full control over its foreign political and foreign economic interests.

According to the diplomat, many staffers of the Union ministry apply for jobs at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry. The applications are considered on a case-by-case basis, and there are already examples of diplomats moving from Moscow to Kiev. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry will continue to hire qualified diplomats from Moscow—on condition, though, that they speak the state language—Ukrainian.

Commentator Wary of Status Statement

LD2510212891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1442 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Commentary by TASS military observer Vladimir Bogachev]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 25 Oct (TASS)—World public opinion is following with intense interest the legislative activities of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet regarding Union nuclear weapons located on the republic's territory. [passage omitted]

The statement by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet published on 24 October about the republic's nonnuclear status has also raised a number of questions in the West. On the one hand, legislators in Kiev say that the Ukraine will observe the articles of the 1991 treaty between the USSR and the United States on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons where it concerns nuclear weapons on its territory. On the other hand, they talk about the republic's intention to carry out a policy aimed at the destruction of nuclear weapons "in the minimum amount of time possible." This part of the statement can be seen as Kiev's unfounded claim to the right to alter on its own authority the time limits laid down for the elimination of strategic weapons stipulated in the treaty on strategic offensive weapons.

The statement emphasizes that the republic will employ the necessary measures to guarantee the physical security of the nuclear weapons situated on its territory throughout the entire period up until the complete destruction of the nuclear weapons. This is perhaps the most alarming part of the Ukrainian statement. For it is only one small step from the establishment of Ukrainian control over the "physical security" of Union nuclear weapons—obviously with the assistance of the Armed Forces—to the possibility, God forbid, of the seizure of these weapons.

"At present these weapons are under the supervision of the relevant structures of the former USSR," the Ukrainian legislators acknowledge. The words "at present" trigger an alarm bell. At the Supreme Soviet session it was repeatedly emphasized that nuclear weapons on the territory of a sovereign state belong to that state. It seems that the Ukraine is insisting on its right to control the non-use of its nuclear weapons. At first glance, this sounds perfectly proper. However, it is worth pointing out that the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons to which the Ukraine is intending to add its signature forbids the control of nuclear weapons being handed over to other nonnuclear countries, regardless of the pretext. This is clear. In the given case it is obvious that the additional control over the "non-usage" of nuclear weapons could in certain circumstances end up increasing the threat of them being used.

The intention of Ukrainian legislators to give the republic nonnuclear status can only be welcomed. However, the implementation of this resolution should be carried out in strict accordance with existing international agreements and should on no account whatsoever lead to an increased risk of the sanctioned or unsanctioned use of nuclear weapons. It is worthy of repetition—the stakes here are too high.

Laws on Nuclear Arms Viewed

PM2510140791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Oct 91 First Edition p 1

[Report by TASS military observer Vladimir Bogachev: "Joking With Nuclear Weapons Is a Bad Idea"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet's adoption at their first reading of draft laws on the republic's defense and Armed Forces has given rise to a stormy negative reaction literally throughout the world and has been unequivocally assessed by specialists as an irresponsible step endangering the still fragile structure of military-political stability on our planet.

The laws provide in particular for the transfer to the control of the republic's president of all-Union strategic forces, that is nuclear arms, deployed on Ukrainian territory. None of the references of the Kiev legislators to the republic's "nuclear-free principles" or to the temporary nature of the Ukraine's nuclear status can conceal the fact that it is a case of an attempt to undermine the spirit and letter of the very important treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

The treaty on nonproliferation, of which the Soviet Union is a signee, bans the transfer of nuclear weapons or control over them to nonnuclear states. The expansion of the "nuclear club" by even one new member could drastically weaken the barriers on the path of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and lend new impetus to the creep of weapons of mass destruction across all continents.

The decision of the Kiev legislators will undoubtedly have the most serious international consequences. "We do not want one nuclear power to disintegrate into three or four nuclear powers," official spokesmen for the U.S. Administration have told a LOS ANGELES TIMES correspondent.

D. Howell, chairman of the British Parliament's House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, called the decision of the Ukrainian legislators "a serious threat to peace." "This is an example of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the emergence of new nuclear powers which horrifies us," he stressed.

The West greeted with understanding the statement in New York by USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister V. Petrovskiy to the effect that the Soviet strategic forces will remain united under a strictly centralized system of combat administration which totally rules out their unsanctioned use.

Indeed, the stakes here are too high. Any tough measures are justified in preventing the slightest possibility of the use of nuclear weapons by irresponsible groups or individuals. And the Ukrainian parliamentarians should obviously realize that.

Results of Supreme Soviet Meetings Noted

Move to Observer Status Viewed

LD2510202891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1849 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Aleksandr Litvinov and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 25 Oct (TASS)—The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet adopted a decision today to form a group of Ukrainian people's deputies and to send it to the Soviet of the Republics of the USSR Supreme Soviet in an observer capacity.

The parliament believes that it is inappropriate for the Ukraine to take part in the creation of any interrepublican structures which will or could lead to it being incorporated as part of another state, or to take part in the activity of such structures, the session of the republican Supreme Soviet stressed.

Further on Observer Status

LD2610023191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Report by A. Tkachenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has decided to send a group of Ukraine people's deputies as observers to the Soviet of the Republics of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The resolution adopted notes that the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet regards it as inexpedient for the Ukraine to take part in the creation of any interrepublican structure that could lead to the Ukraine being incorporated as part of another state.

As for the interest displayed in the creation by the Ukraine of a 400,000-man Army, Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General Konstantin Morozov said:

[Begin Morozov recording] The Ukraine has the right to create its own statehood, and it has the right to possess all the attributes of such statehood, and that includes its own Armed Forces. [end recording]

Also today the Supreme Soviet gave initial approval to a plan for building an independent economy in the Ukraine, as submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers, even though there was heated debate on this yesterday and the opposition even called for the resignation of Prime Minister Vitold Fokin. Today, however, it would seem that deputies had opted for reconciliation, given that it is Fokin's birthday.

Nonnuclear Commitment Declared

OW2510181191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine has reaffirmed the republic's commitment to the three nonnuclear principles: not to deploy, manufacture or purchase nuclear arms. Its Thursday [24 October] statement "On the Non-Nuclear Status of the Ukraine" says that Kiev will fully abide by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968.

The presence of the ex-USSR's nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory is declared temporary and subject to control by the appropriate agencies in Moscow. The Ukraine insists on being given the right to verify the non-use of nuclear weapons stationed on its territory.

It pledges to do everything to scrap nuclear arms and their components on Ukrainian territory within the shortest possible time.

As one of the legal successors to the former USSR, the Ukraine will comply with the 1991 Soviet-American treaty on cuts in strategic nuclear arsenals and is ready to open negotiations with Belorussia, Kazakhstan and Russia, in the presence of appropriate ex-union structures, on the elimination of nuclear weapons mentioned by the treaty.

Interrepublic Cooperation Debated

LD2610191391 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] The Ukraine Supreme Soviet continued work in Kiev today. The resolution on Ukraine's participation in interrepublican structures for the transitional period was adopted. The Ukraine believes taking part in Union legislative bodies is impossible. It will only form a parliament's delegation which will be an observer in the Supreme Soviet of the former Union. As far as interrepublican contacts are concerned, the Ukraine will continue negotiations about the agreement on an economic community of the former Union republics and believes joining it will be possible only on condition that its demands are taken into account, without reserve.

The Ukraine will also be a participant in the negotiations process regarding the future of strategic nuclear weapons within the boundaries of the entire former USSR, in order to coordinate positions of the former sovereign republics on joint management of the collective defense.

At today's plenary session, the main directions of the Ukraine's economic policy under conditions of independence were largely approved. The draft law on the Ukraine procurator's office was also approved in its first reading.

Fokin Economic Program Criticized

LD2610153691 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The Ukraine Supreme Soviet continued work in Kiev today. Cabinet of Ministers Chairman Vitold

Fokin delivered a 60-minute report on the main directions of the Ukraine's independent economic policy. The economic program proposed by the republic's government envisages changing investment policy structures, a more effective approach to property destatization and privatization, industrial demonopolization as well as agrarian, financial, and social reform.

The prime minister's speech provoked different reactions from deputies. The program was sharply criticized. Deputies did not adopt a resolution on this issue.

Today, deputies also adopted a Supreme Soviet statement on the liquidation of nuclear weaponry on the republic's territory.

Kravchuk Remarks on Ukraine-Crimean Relations

LD2610154691 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Remarks by Ukraine Supreme Soviet Chairman Leonid Kravchuk during interview with unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

I am convinced that the Crimean people are linking their lives with the Ukraine. I do not see another way. There will not be one, because it has been determined by constitutions, laws and agreements between Russia and the Ukraine. This is a reality. They understand that and they want to work fruitfully together. The Ukraine will never take a step to restrict the democratic rights of the Crimea, their right to run affairs, adopt laws and take actions.

Some deputies, however, are moving in a different direction. Collectives want to put economic life right, to live, work and have a fair profit from that. We are linked by thousands of economic ties. I have one economic example here. The Crimea pays world prices for water, nearly 2 billion dollars annually. Does the Crimea have 2 billion dollars?

If someone wants to go somewhere, we certainly will not have these relations. We will not exert economic pressure. I am against that. We will put relations on a different basis. Where are the examples showing that the Ukraine has restricted the Crimea? People say to me: You adopt laws in the Supreme Soviet which we do not like. Excuse me, we may not like either the laws or resolutions which the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea adopts. But we do not take umbrage at that.

Speech Eases Tension

PM2510152591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Sergey Alekseyev report: "No Referendum in Crimea"]

[Text] Simferopol—Leonid Kravchuk's speech at the 23 October Crimean Supreme Soviet session eased the tension which had arisen recently between the Crimea and Kiev.

Leonid Kravchuk recalled that 90 percent of all the Crimea's economic ties are with the Ukraine. In the opinion of the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, the Crimea should have every right to resolve its own questions, but, as a component of the Ukraine, should submit to its laws. He proposed dividing up powers between the Ukrainian and Crimean Supreme Soviets and suggested that Crimean parliamentarians should set up their own constitution in the very near future.

The leader of the Ukrainian parliament gave an assurance that he would defend the interests of Crimean people, but he did not support their demands for a new territorial division, since any revision of borders would be the start of a great tragedy.

The session decided to examine the draft law "On a Referendum" only on its first reading. This means that the question of the Crimea's possible withdrawal from the Ukraine has been indefinitely postponed.

Two More Presidential Candidates Registered

LD2710184691 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Presentation of certificates of candidates for president of Ukraine to Ihor Rafailovich Yukhnovskiy, people's deputy of Ukraine, and Oleksandr Mikolayovich Tkachenko, the state minister of Ukraine for issues of Agrarian policy and foodstuffs, took place yesterday in the Central Election Commission. [passage omitted]

Candidates Visit Odessa

LD2710135891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Correspondent S. Fatayev report; from the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Odessa gives different receptions to candidates for Ukrainian president and shows different attitudes to their platforms. The Odessa intelligentsia gave an ecstatic welcome to Vyacheslav Chernovol, while members of the Odessa Business Club laid out a table for him at the House of Scientists. One of the points of Chernovol's platform—on the future of an independent state—was nicknamed united states of the Ukraine by Odessa wits.

[Begin Chernovol recording] You know, this can be named in different ways but I support broad regional self-administration or a system of lands, as I call it. [end recording]

Leonid Kravchuk, another candidate for Ukrainian president and chairman of its current Supreme Soviet, started his stay in Odessa by meeting workers today. He has an unequivocal view on the problem of a united states of the Ukraine.

[Begin Kravchuk recording] To arrive at a federal reorganization of the Ukraine today would be a step toward further destabilization of the situation. I cannot accept this. [end recording]

Kravchuk Meets Workers

LD2710113691 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Excerpts] During one and a half days of his visit to Odessa, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet chariman met with representatives of almost all the main groups of the Odessa population. On the first day these were workers, representatives of intelligentsia, entrepreneurs, and people's deputies. A meeting with representatives of the military units and subunits of Odessa Military District took place yesterday morning. Kravchuk gave his assessment of the republic's political situation, gave an account of economic aspects of his election platform, and answered questions. [passage omitted]

Workers were interested in military issues, for example, those concerning nuclear weapons on the territory of the Ukraine. However, the military showed interest in economic issues: prices and economic reforms. The main attention was, however, on military issues. Kravchuk touched on the military issues in his speech, in particular:

[Begin Kravchuk recording in Russian] Our Armed Forces will not, and should not, according to my conviction, proceed from the principle of 8 to 9 percent of the population but should be considerably smaller. Therefore the grouping which will be on the territory of the Ukraine will consist of both strategic forces and the Armed Forces of the Ukraine. How many and how this will be alloted—one still has to work on that. We stand for the process of negotiations and for concluding an agreement between the Defense Ministry and the General Staff, and the Ukraine, just as with other republics. The Russian delegation also agreed to this concept of common strategic space and single command over strategic military forces when it visited the Ukraine this year and we signed the communique that we should act jointly with Russia and with other republics on these issues.

The status of a nonnuclear state. This is a noble goal and I think every person will sign this. But we should understand that the process of destructing strategic and tactical atomic weaponry is a long one and should only be conducted through treaties and agreements in which, according to my convictions, all states that have nuclear devices should take part. And those states, republics, on whose territory nuclear weaponry is situated must be present at these negotiations. These are: Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belorussia. We will stimulate, as far as it is possible and using various forms, including the rostrum of the UN, for this process to go quickly. We support the proposition of Gorbachev and Bush that not only strategic but also tactical nuclear weaponry should be included in the process of negotiations. However, while this negotiation process will be continuing and nuclear weaponry, primarily strategic, I think, along with other types will be destroyed—the techniques of this are being worked out and are already in existence—and again, one person should manage and have control over the nuclear button. One cannot transfer this weaponry from one territory to another for the balance existing at present could be upset. [end recording]

After the meeting with the military, Kravchuk held a business-like conversation in the oblast executive committee with chairmen of the oblast, city, and rayon soviets. Various political, economic, and social problems of the republic and its southern region were raised. The talk was also about the coming presidential elections, holding the national referendum, introduction of their own monetary unit, stabilization of industry, the agrarian complex and other branches of the national economy, and efforts to make the activity of local government bodies more lively. [passage omitted]

Ukrainian Communists Form New Party

OW2810005291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian communists gathered in Kiev to found a new Communist Party. Its predecessor was banned in the republic, and its property has been nationalised.

But, on Friday [25 October], 286 delegates from most Ukrainian regions gathered in Kiev to open a constituent congress to found a new party. The delegates were offered a choice of seven names, including: a Party for the Social Protection of Workers, Socialist Party, etc.

The new party plans to offer social protection to workers, peasants, and working intelligentsia. Politically, it advocates the Soviet system of government, division of powers. The Ukrainian neocommunists promise to defend the Ukraine's independence and ethnic minorities. In the economic sphere, they favour equality of all ownership forms and privatisation. Supporting entrepreneurship, the new party believes that business must be regulated by a progressive taxation scheme. They demand a referendum on land privatisation.

Armenia

Armenia, Azerbaijan Officials Discuss Crisis

Appeal Issued

LD2610020591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2227 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 26 Oct (TASS)—"To refrain from violence and voluntarism and to compliment the interrepublican talks with diplomacy by the people"—this was the appeal to the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples issued on Friday by the participants of the first meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of the two republics, with the participation of observers from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. The meeting took place in the village of Kayan in Idzhevanskiy Rayon of Armenia with the purpose of peacefully settling the crisis in relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, in light of the Zheleznovodsk agreements.

The first meeting, the appeal reads, showed the wish of both sides for understanding and for a constructive dialogue, which gives hope for a successful resolution of the problems that have accumulated. "We understand," the authors of the appeal write, "that the talks that have started cannot resolve all issues at once. Unfortunately, contrary to our expectations, no lessening of tension in the region followed after signing the Zheleznovodsk communique. Favorable conditions are required for any progress."

The document continues: "We are appealing to reason and the goodwill of the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples: The vicious circle of murder and revenge must be broken. We realize that this is very difficult. It is necessary to rise above offenses, and more than enough of those have accumulated over the last three and a half years. However, each of us must go through with this because the future of millions of citizens of the two republics is at stake."

Talks Called 'Fruitful'

LD2610101391 Moscow TASS in English 0940 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan October 26 TASS—Armenia and Azerbaijan began closed-door talks in the village of Kayan in Armenia's Idzhevan District on Saturday.

The first round of talks was attended by observers from Russia and Kazakhstan.

"We understand one or two meetings will not solve all our problems, which have piled over the past years. But we believe they should be solved through negotiations rather than confrontation," Babken Arartsyan, first deputy Armenian parliamentary leader, said.

"We will try to find mutually acceptable solutions and compromises," Arartsyan said.

His Azerbaijani counterpart Ziyad Samedzade shared his view.

He said the first meeting has showed both sides are ready to find a way out from the current situation.

Yevgeniy Kozhukhin, head of the group of Russian observers, said the talks were fruitful and specific.

The sides agreed to meet again on November 15 in the city of Zangelan in Azerbaijan.

Constructive Proposals Noted

LD2510234191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" Newscast]

[Text] The second meeting of delegations from Armenia and Azerbaijan, attended by observers from Russia and Kazakhstan, took place today in the town of Idzhevan. The meeting is being held under the provisions of the communique signed at Zheleznovodsk. The Armenian delegation is led by Babken Arartsyan, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia. The Azerbaijan delegation is led by Ziyad Samedzade. The delegation of observers from Russia is led by Yevgeniy Kozhukin. The Kazakhstan is led by Yerkin Auyelbekov.

Our republics are faced with tasks which are responsible and pretty tricky, but it seems the two sides are not yet ready to kiss and make up. At least, that is what they say.

[Begin recording] [Russian observer] The talks are proceeding in a normal businesslike setting. Some quite constructive things have been said, showing that the two sides can conduct a dialogue, that there are some concrete proposals on which we all have a lot of work to do.

[Correspondent] Does the Azerbaijani side have constructive proposals for the solution of this problem?

[Azerbaijani delegate] Definitely. It has constructive proposals. Nevertheless, nobody should say that all the problems are going to be resolved today. It looks as though several negotiating sessions will be needed. We have to work gradually and purposefully toward solving the whole complex of issues connected with this conflict which figures in the communique. People, both Armenians and Azerbaijanis, are tired of these conflicts. [end recording]

Talks Reach 'Successful' End

OW2610211491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Round 2 of the talks between Armenians and Azeris to find a settlement in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that came to a close Friday evening in the Armenian town of Idzhevan was recognized by the parties as successful. According to the Snark news agency, the talks resulted in an appeal to the peoples of the two neighbour republics in Transcaucasia and discussed the status of the groups responsible for the dissemination of information from the zone of conflict.

The round was significant in that it was the first attempt to discuss specific tasks—a cease-fire, the return of the hostages, and the restoration of the constitutional bodies of power in Nagorno-Karabakh, said the head of the Armenian delegation Babken Arartsyan.

The head of the Azeri delegation Ziyad Samedzade remarked that, mindful of the complexity of the problem, Azerbaijan was ready to pass from confrontation to cooperation.

The next round will be held in Azerbaijan's Zangeli district on November 15.

President on Recognition of Independence

LD2610134191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1930 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 23 Oct (TASS)—Armenia is reckoning on very rapid recognition of its independence by Western countries, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the republic's president, stated today. In his opinion, failure to recognize Armenian independence will signify that the international community does not respect its own laws and is not going carefully into the nature of the objective processes occurring in the Soviet Union.

Receiving Emmanouil Megalokonomos, deputy general secretary of the Greek Foreign Ministry, and Illias Gounaris, Greek ambassador to the USSR, in Yerevan today, the Armenian president noted that the republic's course toward full political independence simultaneously with its participation in all the constructive processes in the country shows aspirations of the Armenian authorities after coming into being of independence states in a peaceful and bloodless situation.

Touching on the situation in the region, whose stabilization Armenia is hoping to attain by means of political negotiations, Ter-Petrosyan highly assessed the mediation mission of Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev, the presidents of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and Kazakhstan, to Transcausia. He again put forward the position of the leadership of Armenia, believing that the constant presence of observers of the United Nations and other international organizations in tension hotspots could be an important guarantee of the safety of the population in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian president also spoke out in favor of the "renewal" of the republic's relations with Greece and of setting up a stable system of collective security.

Energy Crisis Prompts Restrictive Measures

LD2410104891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0040 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 23 Oct (TASS)—The worsening energy crisis is making a severe difference to the everyday lives of Armenian people. A special instruction from the republic's government has placed restrictions on television. Local transmitters broadcast for only three hours on Tuesday, and there was the same amount of central television broadcasting. On Sundays there will in addition be television from 1100 hours until 1400 hours.

The same decision reduces street lighting in the republic's towns and villages by almost one third. Local authorities have been instructed to ensure that illuminated signs are completely switched off. Street traders will not be allowed to light their stalls in the evenings as of 25 October. Failure to obey this government decision will carry grave consequences, up to and including confiscation of goods.

The situation in the republic's energy complex is unprecedentedly serious. That was the view of the current situation expressed by Grant Bagratyan, acting chairman of the Armenian Council of Ministers. "This winter," he said, "is expected to be between four and six degrees colder than last. In view of this, the government is trying to take every possible measure to make rational use of energy and reduce expenditure of it as much as possible. The shortage of electric power and underloading of power capacities, along with irregular fuel supplies, is leading to shutdown at important production sites, particularly those with a permanent production cycle. Interruptions and stoppages at production sites are causing tension and breaches of discipline, as well as leading to unemployment. We are starting to see bankruptcies at enterprises on a mass scale, and that means that salaries cannot be paid."

According to the head of government, the shortage of electric power has led to a shutdown at major chemical and cement works, at the Kadzharan mining and metallurgical combine, and at the Yerevan electric lamp works. Presently, the republic does not even have the minimal reserves of electric power necessary to supply the population and the food industry, especially the baking industry.

Azerbaijani Trains Resume Travel in Armenia

LD2710135391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0536 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Oct (TASS)—The attention of USSR Railways Ministry traffic controllers was last night riveted on one of the southern branches of the railways.

The Megri stretch of the Azerbaijan railway, which runs through the territory of Armenia, came back to life. Traffic on it ceased a month ago.

Locomotive crews refused to drive the trains because of the increased shooting at trains and hostage taking. Thanks to lengthy talks with the sides involved in the conflict, a relative truce was successfully reached.

The first train transported a cargo of foodstuffs, medicines, building materials, and fuel to Yerevan. It is planned to let around 25 trains through in each direction throughout a 24-hour period. Altogether around 140 trains have accumulated on this stretch because of the forced stoppage.

Azerbaijan

Official Views Resolving NKAO Conflict

LD2410105991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1130 GMT 23 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Stepanakert, 23 Oct (TASS)— Araz Ali-Zade, chairman of the Social Democratic Party and member of the Azerbaijani Defense Council, stated that the only possible way to resolve the Karabakh problem today is to return to the state of affairs that existed in 1988 (the beginning of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh [NKAO]—TASS).

The conflict has been imported from outside, he said in a interview granted to a TASS correspondent. Neither the Armenians nor the Azerbaijanis who inhabit Karabakh have ever been at loggerheads with each other—at least I do not remember this happening. You will not find two such peoples in the world so close in traditions and customs, and who are so interlinked by family ties.

We are today occupied with the formation of our own national Army of 20-25,000 servicemen, Araz Ali-Zade stated. As soon as the Army is formed in Azerbaijan, 80 percent of the bandit formations which operate on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh will withdraw [retiruyutsya]. As for the remaining small and insubordinate formations, it will be very easy to deal with them. The local population is fed up with the confrontation, and will contribute to the stabilization of the situation.

If Russia and Kazakhstan do not fulfill the obligations which they have taken upon themselves in accordance with the Zheleznovodsk communique, then the Azerbaijani army will step into action, Araz Ali-Zade underlined.

General Urges MVD Troops To Leave NKAO

LD2510183791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1425 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bondarenko]

[Text] Rostov-na-Don, 25 Oct (TASS)—"Interior troops should be withdrawn from the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh [NKAO]," Major General Anatoliy Kulikov, head of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs's [MVD] Internal Troops directorate for the North Caucasus and the Transcaucasus, said at a news conference here today.

The general noted that during the four years of interethnic conflict in the Transcaucasus 86 servicemen and militiamen had been killed and over 450 civilians had perished. The status of Internal Troops on the territory of Azerbaijan, which has proclaimed its sovereignty, remains unclear. Their presence is, he said, becoming an irritant for both sides, and the task of creating a buffer area between the warring sides is in practice impossible to achieve.

The conflict should be resolved by political means, General Kulikov stressed. He told journalists that he had sent a letter to Lieutenant General Vasiliy Savvin, commander of the USSR MVD's Internal Troops, giving the reasons why the Internal Troops units need to be withdrawn from Nagorno-Karabakh.

NKAO Command Updates News on Fighting

LD2510140191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1345 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Stepanakert, 25 Oct (TASS)—The Armenian village of Gyulatag in Nagorno Karabakh's [NKAO] Mardakertskiy Rayon was shelled last night. According to the report recived by the TASS correspondent at the Oblast Directorate of Internal Affairs, 16 "Alazan" unguided missiles were launched from the direction of the Azerbaijani village of Papravend in Agdamskiy Rayon. According to the preliminary data, there are no casualties.

The state of emergency area command reports that a livestock farm of the Azerbaijani village of Aliagaly in Agdamskiy Rayon, neighboring on Nagorno-Karabakh, was sprayed by automatic fire from the mountains yesterday. Servicemen from the Internal Troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs suppressed the fire by unknown persons. No one was injured.

Handing Over Arms, Equipment Demanded

LD2610015191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Azerbaijan is continuing to make the handing over to the republic of all weapons and equipment of the Soviet Army on its territory a condition for signing the interrepublican agreement on a unified economic area.

[Begin Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov recording] Our approach is still the same since blood is being shed in our republic. We want to defend ourselves. [end recording]

100,000 Criticize President Over Ukraine Appeal

LD2710110191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] A 100,000-strong rally which took place in Baku's central square on Saturday sharply criticized the Azerbaijani president for signing an appeal by the leaders of the seven republics calling for the Ukraine to moderate its separatism. Those taking part in the rally pointed out that this is out of line with the spirit and letter of the discussions that were held at the latest Azerbaijan parliament sittings. Those participating in the rally demanded that the republic's leadership publish very soon the text of laws: the constitutional act on the state independence of Azerbaijan, the law on the national Army, as well as the document on attitudes toward the economic community adopted by the Azerbaijani parliament. The demonstrators insisted that the 29 October opening of the Azerbaijan parliament be transmitted live on television.

Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive in Italy

LD2710203891 Moscow TASS in English 1735 GMT 27 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Polyunin]

[Text] Rome October 27 TASS—A government delegation from Azerbaijan led by Prime Minister G. Gasanov arrived in Italy today for talks with the heads of the leading Italian firms and associations of industrialists in Rome, Turin, Milan and Venice.

"I have great expectations in connection with this visit to Italy," Prime Minister Gasanov told journalists upon arrival in Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport.

Until now, our main trading partners were Iran and Turkey. Now Italy is becoming our most important partner in the field of production".

As regards the situation in Azerbaijan, Gasanov stressed that Azerbaijan is the only self-sufficient republic in the Soviet Union. While the economy of the USSR is sliding downward, he continued, the situation is quite different in our republic: We are planning further production growth for 1992. We have oil and an energy base of our own. I want to assure our trading partners that the republic is on the way towards full stabilization, the prime minister stressed.

In Rome Gasanov is due to meet Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. He is also scheduled to meet the industrial minister, Carlo Bodrato, and the transport minister Carlo Bernini.

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Extends South Ossetian Emergency

LD2710192891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1845 GMT 27 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Oct (TASS)—Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia has extended the state of emergency in the town of Tskhinvali and the Dzhavskiy Rayon in South Ossetia for another month. It was introduced there in December of last year.

The head of the republic also issued a decree under which the armed formations and law enforcement bodies of the entire region are subordinated to the special representative of the president of Georgia.

Further Firing, Explosions Cited

LD2710172491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] According to reports from South Ossetia, sporadic shooting and explosions were again heard last night; the darkness was lit up by bursts of large-calibre machine-guns at the most critical points of the autonomous oblast on the outskirts of Tskhinvali and in the Znaurskiy Rayon. Precision shooting was carried out by the fighters from the outskirts of the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Tamarasheni, Eredvi and (Nivkriksi), which are situated outside the state of emergency zone. Considerable damage has been caused to houses in the northern and southern parts of Tskhvinvali. Five people have been taken to the hospital with shooting wounds.

Znauri and the nearby villages are being daily subjected to missile attacks and artillery bombardment. Ossetian self-defense detachments are defending these localities. Many public buildings and dwellings have been destroyed and burned down in the rayon center. Women, children and the elderly have left the settlement. Znauri has no supply of electricity and water, and telephone communications have been cut off.

The ring of the economic and food blockade around Tskhinvali is tightening. The town is suffering from a catastrophic shortage of food. A critical situation has developed at the oblast hospital in respect of drugs, bandages and donors' blood . All routine planned operations have been cancelled. The Transcaucasus highway and the Gori, where they enter the oblast center, have

been blocked by fighters. Additional subunits of Internal Troops and armored vehicles which have arrived on orders from the USSR minister of internal affairs to carry out the tasks of stabilizing the situation have so far had no serious impact on the situation.

26 Oct Situation Summarized

LD2610225391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1550 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 26 Oct (TASS)—Sporadic shooting and explosions rang out again last night around Tskhinvali. From the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Eredvi, Tamarasheni, and Mevrikisi, where the state of emergency does not extend, guerrillas fired on residential blocks near the oblast center. Nine-story houses in the northern and southern parts of the city, some industrial property and communal services were severely damaged. Seven people were injured. Ossetian self-defense detachments carried out retaliatory fire.

According to information of the South Ossetian Information Committee press center, the guerrilias have recently chosen a new tactic of armed assault. They are setting up "Alazani" loudspeaker systems not only on the distant approaches to Tskhinvali, but are also employing mobile pieces, which can be moved quickly from one village to another. They have started to use new long-range missiles against c[illegible]an inhabitants.

In Tskhinvali the food problem has gotten much worse. This is due to the fact that all the main roads along which humanitarian aid arrives from Vladikavkaz are blocked by the guerrillas. They are also hindering the delivery of foodstuffs along the main Dzhava-Tskhinvali route. The additional USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Internal Troops subunits which have arrived in South Ossetia are essentially fulfilling the role of observers. They don't have an order from the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs to enter the opposing sides' armed conflict.

The population of South Ossetia has reacted positively to the report that the question of the critical situation in South Osetia was studied at the session of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet on the initiative of a group of deputies. Inhabitants of the autonomous oblast continue to insist on the immediate introduction of a state of emergency on the entire territory of South Ossetia and the urgent evacuation of women, children, old people, and casualties from the crisis points. They request that the Russian parliament considers the question of the autonomous oblast's joining Russia.

Residents Fear Attacks

LD2510185491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1444 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Sanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 25 Oct (TASS)—Additional divisions of Georgian fighters are gathering around Tskhinvali, and a TASS correspondent has heard from reliable sources that residents fear they are preparing to storm the town.

The introduction into the oblast of additional subunits of the Internal Troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] as well as armored vehicles, intended to stabilize the situation, has not yielded any results. In setlements in Znaurskiy Rayon, mobile loudspeakers, new missiles effective over a greater range, helicopters and armored vehicles are being used by the Georgian fighters against the civilian population. Over the last three days, the Georgians have taken 18 Ossetians hostage in this rayon. The fighters are seizing personal property in the remote villages, they are rustling cattle and seizing agricultural products. Ossetian home guard divisions are returning fire against Georgian settlements.

The South Ossetia information committee press center has reported that si[illegible] people have been wounded as a result of firing overnight near Tskhinvali. Residential housing has been damaged as have communal buildings in the town.

Stealing from trucks bringing food and medicines to besieged Tskhinvali is continuing. Over the last three months, goods worth 700,000 rubles have been seized.

All attempts by the leadership of this autonomous oblast to have a state of emergency introduced over the entire territory of South Ossetia have been blocked by the Georgian side, which is demanding the withdrawal of all military subunits of the USSR MVD Internal Troops.

Gamsakhurdia Urges Abkhaz Toward 'Civic Accord'

AU2510175591 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1410 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Here is a message from the president of the Republic of Georgia to the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic [ASSR].

Dear Members of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Abkhaz ASSR!

We are all today at that historical crossroads when every politician and every citizen who feels a sense of responsibility before his own people and his own state has to make a decisive choice: Either to direct all his own professional knowledge, experience of life, and authority toward normalizing the situation that has taken shape in the republic and toward overcoming the confrontation that has resulted from disorganization in all spheres of the life of our society; or to support the irresponsible actions of those destructive forces who are essentially struggling for power and who, for the sake of power, are concerned least of all about the true interests of the multinational Georgian population.

In the extremely complex political situation that characterizes our republic today, the Supreme Council elections in the Abkhaz ASSR have become a most important event.

The elections have shown us that the goodwill of the people can stimulate reason and contribute to the search for optimal decisions that are (?aimed) at overcoming discord and mistrust and (?finding different ways) to bring about a rapprochement of differing views for the future of our peoples and for their peaceful coexistence. At the same time, the information received from Abkhazia once again indicates to us that the civil rights of the majority of the population of the autonomous republic are continuing to be violated, they are being discriminated against, first and foremost in the political sphere, and the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Georgia as well as the Constitution of the Abkhaz ASSR are being disregarded. These processes are giving rise to serious concern as they are opposing the fundamental interests of our peoples and hindering the resolution of those vitally important tasks that will contribute to the restoration of mutual understanding, our state's single economic complex, and the ability to lead a normal life.

Unfortunately, certain decisions of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Abkhaz ASSR, which are the result of the arbitrary confusion of the functions of legislative and executive power, oppose the aims of stabilizing the (?situation). Of particular concern is the dangerous disregard of legislative norms in the work of the Abkhaz ASSR Supreme Council Central Electoral Commission, something which could result in a serious confrontation.

At this responsible moment, I consider it necessary to insistently call upon the members of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Abkhaz ASSR to direct all their efforts toward supporting the [words indistinct] stable situation in the autonomous republic, restraining the various social forces from taking reckless steps, something which could have far-reaching results, and give a [word indistinct] assessment of the political and legislative realities in order to secure peace and prosperity in the Republic of Georgia, in particular, in Abkhazia.

I must remind you of a view that was expressed earlier, namely that the formation of the autonomous republic's future parliament on a legal basis is a very important condition for resolving the question of enriching the rights of the autonomy with real substance in new conditions.

I call upon all who are motivated by a sense of realism and responsibility, and who are ready, to unite and work, for our common home and for the prosperity of our republic, toward civic accord and cooperation and the just resolution of all questions and problems, resolution that does not infringe upon the legal rights and interests of all the citizens of the Republic of Georgia. The future generation will not forgive us if we do not realize that the only path to a normal life lies in the union and true and genuine brotherhood of our republic's conscientious and constructive forces.

Georgian Opposition Plans 'Information War'

LD2610151391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 26 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Opposition leaders in Georgia say that beginning sometime this week, an information war will be declared on the authorities. One of them, former prime minister Sigua, announced the commissioning of an opposition television. According to several reports, broadcasting television programs on decimetric waves will be made from a base in the vicinity of the Tbilisi Sea. National Guard units supporting the opposition are located in this region.

Republican People's Army To Be Established

LD2710170891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 25 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Georgia. Plans to create a republican people's army have been announced here. At a rally that took place yesterday, Zviad Gamsakhurdia has yet again accused Eduard Shevardnadze and the Movement for Democratic Reforms of having a desire to break up the nation, and at the same time foist upon Georgians well-veiled communist ideas.

Decree on Administering State Property Cited

AU2310131991 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 12 Oct 91 p 2

["Decree of the President of the Republic of Georgia on the Creation of a Committee for the Administration of the State Property of the Republic of Georgia" issued in Tbilisi on 9 October]

[Text] 1. In accordance with the Republic of Georgia Law of 9 August 1991 "on the Privatization of the State Enterprises of the Republic of Georgia" to create a committee for the administration of the state property of the Republic of Georgia, to instruct this commission to implement an anti-monopoly policy and measures aimed at supporting free enterprise.

2. To entrust the prime minister of the Republic of Georgia with fulfilling the duties of the chairman of the Committee for the Administration of the State Property of the Republic of Georgia.

3. The Cabinet of Ministers is to resolve the questions of the location and supplying materials and machinery to the Committee for the Administration of the State Property of the Republic of Georgia within a period of 10 days.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the Republic of Georgia

Tbilisi, 9 October 1991.

TV Station Broadcasts Under Protection

OW2510014191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former Georgian minister of foreign affairs, Georgiy Khoshtaria, who was due to leave for a private visit to Israel, was detained for a short while in Moscow on 21st October. As he himself told journalists on Thursday, he was stopped by customs officers one of whom said, "We have been waiting for you for a long time". Mr. Khoshtaria announced that on Thursday KGB Chairman Vadim Bakatin confirmed that "the initiative behind the detention came from Tbilisi" and he promised to look into "this blatant case of abuse of power".

"The democratic opposition of Georgia believe that Zviad Gamsakhurdia has established a dictatorship in the republic that will lead to political and economic chaos", announced Irakly Kadageshvili, a member of the Governing Committee of the National Democratic Party of Georgia (NDP), at the same press conference. He went on to say that the president's declarations that Georgia had first to achieve full independence and only then lay the bases for democracy "would lead to isolation and the establishment of a national-Bolshevik dictatorship".

To the knowledge of Irina Sarishvili, the wife of the NDP leader Georgiy Chanturia arrested by the authorities, there are up to 90 political prisoners now in Georgia. Her husband who has been kept in prison for a month without any clear charges has already staged two hunger-strikes

To a question by INTERFAX correspondent I. Kadageshvili replied that with all the repressions, his party will keep the public in Georgia and abroad informed of the situation in the republic. He confirmed that since Tuesday a television station has been broadcasting in Tbilisi under the protection of the National Guards opposed to Gamsahurdia. Many employees of the state television have been striking without leaving their work places "in protest against the authorities monopolizing the right to spread information."

TV Journalist Released from Custody

PM2510154191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Besik Urigashvili report: "An Exciting Life: Arrests, Trials, Hunger Strikes...."]

[Text] Tbilisi—The journalist Valeriy Kvaratskheliya, leader of the TV and Radio Department Staffers' Strike Committee, has been released from custody after the 72 hours allowed by law.

As Kvaratskheliya put it, law-enforcement organs accused him of violating Article 242 of the Criminal Code, which specifies penalties for seizing or picketing state institutions and other important buildings. However, the TV journalist told MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] representatives that the arrest was political, that he had gone on hunger strike, and that he had refused to give a statement.

Yet it has become known that six of the eight National Democratic Party [NDP] members arrested the previous day have been released. Two NDP members, including Mamuka Giorgadze, a representative of the party's main committee, have been arrested on the orders of the Prosecutor's Office. Previously arrested members Gochan Abzianidze and NDP leader Georgiy Chanturia are already listed by the prestigious human-rights organization Amnesty International, as are Professor Dzhaba Ioseliani, leader of the opposition paramilitary "Mkhedrioni" formation, and the cameraman Khaindrava.

The trial of another prisoner on the Amnesty International list continues in Tbilisi. He is Torez Kulumbekov, who, prior to his arrest, was acting chairman of the South Ossetian Oblast Soviet Executive Committee and had previously been director of No. 2 Secondary School in Tskhinvali.

Deaths Cited in Assault on Georgian Prison

AU2710175891 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia, Oct 27 (AFP)—Four prisoners died and 20 were injured when Georgian Interior Ministry troops attacked a prison in the capital to end a protest by inmates, informed sources told AFP Sunday.

Two of the troops were also injured during the assault, which did not involve Soviet Interior Ministry troops, who are normally entrusted with prison surveillance duties, they said.

Some 200 inmates climbed onto the rooftops Friday in protest after two common-law prisoners were killed during an escape attempt.

The prison, located on a hill at the entrance to the Georgian capital, also holds political prisoners.

Opponents of the southern republic's president Zviad Gamsakhurdia have notably been jailed there after recent anti-government unrest.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev To Run for Republican President

LD2610201291 Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 26 Oct 91

[By KAZTAG correspondent Uraz Serikbayev]

[Text] Alma-Ata October 26 TASS—Kazakhstan leader Nursultan Nazarbayev will run for the post of republican president to be elected in Kazakhstan's first nation-wide presidential elections on December 1, 1991.

Nazarbayev is being supported by over one million residents of Kazakhstan, though under the republican law he has to collect 100,000 signatures.

No other candidatures have been nominated so far, the republican electoral commission said.

Yerik Asanbayev, who until recently occupied the post of the Kazakhstan parliament chairman, will run for vice-presidency.

Nazarbayev Leaves for UK on Official Visit

LD2810070791 Moscow TASS in English 0655 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 28 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan left here for London by air this morning. This will be the first official visit to Great Britain by the head of a sovereign republic.

On the eve of departure, Nazarbayev, 52, emphasised in a TASS interview that he attaches much importance to forthcoming meetings and talks with the leadership of Britain.

During the visit Nazarbayev will hold talks with the prime minister and other members of the cabinet. "Of great interest to me is also a dialogue with business people, big businessmen and bankers," he added.

Nazarbayev expressed hope that a document "on principles for political and economic relationships between Kazakhstan and Britain will be signed" in London.

"In addition, we plan to discuss problems of rendering economic and humanitarian aid to our entire country which is living through a critical period," Nazarbayev said.

State Defense Committee Established 25 Oct

LD2510190191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1551 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By KAZTAG correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 25 Oct (TASS)—A state defense committee was set up in the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] today by a decree of the republic's president. Lieutenant General Sagadat Nurmagambetov was appointed its chairman. In 1990, he was elected a people's deputy of the Kazakh SSR and chairman of the parliamentary committee for veterans', invalids' and servicemen's affairs.

The decree establishing the Kazakhstan state defense committee stresses that it is intended to guarantee the independence, the territorial integrity, the defense and other vitally important interests of this sovereign republic.

Defense Official on Joint Nuclear Control

AU2610175891 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct 26 (AFP)—The Soviet Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan said it wants joint control with Moscow over the nuclear arms on its territory, but total control over conventional forces there, the new top Kazakh defense official said Saturday [26 October].

General Sagadat Nurbagambetov, whose has been named head of the Kazakhstan State Committee for Defense, was quoted by the Kazakhstan news agency KAZREVIEW as saying that "all Soviet troops present on Kazakh territory will be under our control."

He stressed that Kazakhstan "had no intention of creating its own armed forces," but did plan to set up a national guard.

Kazakhstan is one of the three republics, with Russia and the Ukraine, where Soviet nuclear arms are stationed.

Concerning their control, Nurbagambetov said the republic "wanted to work in close relation with the center, but would not accept any unilateral decisions on its part"—apparently demanding veto power over their use.

Kazakh authorities have spoken out for the total destruction of nuclear armaments, and this month urged the closing of the nuclear testing site at Semipalatinsk, on its territory. It is one of two major Soviet nuclear testing sites, with the other in northern Russia.

Nurbagambetov, 64, served for 20 years from 1969 to 1989 as deputy commander of Soviet troops in the Central Asian district. He later served as deputy commander in the southern group, before being elected a deputy from Kazakhstan in 1990.

On Wednesday [23 October], the Soviet Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Vladimir Lobov reaffirmed that he wanted Soviet nuclear potential concentrated in Russia.

This came after President Mikhail Gorbachev denounced what he called the dangers of "privatization and nationalization" of Soviet Armed Forces in a speech at the opening of the Soviet parliament Monday [21 October].

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Meets U.S. President in Washington

LD2510212991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1912 GMT 25 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington, 25 Oct (TASS)—Askar Akayev, president of Kyrgyzstan, who is now in Washington on a visit, passed on a personal message from Mikhail Gorbachev to U.S. President George Bush. "This message," Askar Akayev told a TASS correspondent after a meeting with the the U.S. President which lasted more than an hour, "raises a whole number of issues: questions of economic interaction, questions connected with ensuring security in the world, as well as other issues which will be discussed by the two presidents during the forthcoming meeting in Madrid."

Askar Akayev also said that the discussion in the White House, in which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Brent Scowcroft, assistant to the president for national security affairs, also took part, was constructive and useful, and was held in a friendly atmosphere. The Kyrgyz president said that the discussion centered on the future structure of the Union, the country's economic problems, security issues resulting from the breakup of the former Union, and the formation of new structures in relations between its members.

Answering a question on the Kyrgyz stand as far as nuclear weapons are concerned, Askar Akayev pointed out that his republic favors "nuclear weapons being under one control, and in one pair of hands—those of the country's president." "I think this is the best answer to the requirements of the world security," he added. Askar Akayev pointed out that Kyrgyzstan is also involved in the Soviet nuclear potential, because although there are no nuclear weapons on its territory, it is on its land that the uranium for atomic reactors and nuclear arms is being extracted and processed. At a number of such enterprises, conversion is already under way, and foreign states, including South Korea, are helping Kyrgyzstan here.

In his words, the issue of U.S. economic aid to the USSR was not raised at the meeting. "My agenda did not include discussing the question of economic aid to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, either," he said.

Regulations on Free Economic Zones Endorsed

OW2810100391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government of the Soviet Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan has endorsed a set of regulations for the operation of a free economic zone [FEZ] in the town of Naryn and five adjacent districts as part of its resolution of April 20, 1991. The new FEZ is expected to deal in home and foreign trade, coal-mining, pharmaceuticals, and tourism as well as in wool and hide processing, and mining of gold and semi-precious stones.

Foreign Investors Offered Lucrative Terms

The republic's legislation and government regulations provide for an easing of tax and custons barriers, and export-import operations, as well as for the protection of foreign investments. Businesses can be set up in any area of activity except those which are prohibited by local laws.

Acquisitions are allowed of stakes in joint ventures, or of property, shares and other securities, as well as of up to 50-year land-leasing and other property rights. Foreign investors are also allowed to set up their own companies or company branches.

Taxation Benefits

—new businesses are exempt from profit tax (which is 50% down on the republic's average) in the first three years, but only half the amount is payable in the next two years.

—a 4-year tax exemption is granted to a company having more than a 10-year-long foreign contract, but only 50% is payable in the next three years.

—along with other benefits, only a 7% tax rate shall be paid by a company exporting 70% of its products, using advanced foreign technologies, selling high-quality products at the home market, and re-investing export earnings locally.

—total exemption from profit tax is granted to a joint venture in which a foreign stake runs at more than 30%

—part of the profit used for re-investing in the FEZ's social security area or infrastructure development is not taxed either.

FEZ Administration

Naryn's local government is the zone's highest administrative body, with executive functions being vested upon the zone's council, "Tengir Too". The council is in charge of defining the zone's development strategy, and its budget, assessing and approving investment projects, licence-issuing (including the registration of joint ventures and wholly foreign-owned businesses) as well as tax reliefs and other benefits. The council includes members of the republican departments and its decisions cannot be revoked by the higher bodies of Kyrgyzstan.

The council is entitled to apply for credits, issue stocks and bonds, carry out investment, trading and crediting operations, and create its own assets.

The local government is solely in charge of the district's land, and resources but the council defines the procedure

and terms of transfer and use of natural resources and public utilities to individuals and juridical persons. It also issues (probably through tenders) licences for prospecting, mining and utililsing mineral resources.

To attract foreign investment, the local government and the council are expected to set up an insurance company as part of the government-backed mortgage.

Legal Guarantees to Foreign Investors

The new regulations ban any discrimination against businesses with foreign participation, or the seizure of investments by nationalisation, requisition or confiscation. No sequestration of invested property is allowed apart from suspending its repatriation until the investor's liabilities have been cleared. However, any seizure is subject to a court ruling alone, but compensation must be paid in hard currency or if agreed so, in raw materials or finished products. The size of compensation must correspond to the market value of the investment seized.

Repatriation of Profits

After-tax profits are allowed for repatrition as are the proceeds from the sale of a foreign stake or part of it in a joint venture, or following the withdrawl from or the liquidation of the business.

Ruble accounts can be used for the purchase of foreign exchange for subsequent repatriation at the zone's official exchange rates at auctions or foreign exchanges.

In the case of export-oriented companies, the repatriation of the foreign partner's share of profits in rubles can be made at the cost of the partners' foreign exchange accounts on mutual agreement.

Export products with an added value of no less than 30% are not liable to quotas or licences, except those the exports of which are restricted by law or in extreme cases, by the cabinet resolution.

In mid-September, the Kyrgyz Government approved a number of regulations for export-import quotas and licensing, as well as for the opening of foreign company officies and the operation of joint ventures in the republic.

Turkmenia

Constitutional Law on Independence Adopted

LD2710141491 Moscow TASS in English 1349 GMT 27 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Nina Chunakova]

[Text] Ashkhabad October 27 TASS—A Turkmenistan parliament session, held here today, adopted a constitutional law "on the independence and the principles of the state structure of Turkmenistan" and a resolution "on the state symbols of Turkmenistan."

The documents have been drawn up on the strength of the results of the October 26 referendum in the republic on Turkmenistan's independence. Over 94 per cent of the republic's citizens who took part in the polling favoured a legislative proclamation of Turkmenistan an independent democratic state.

Those present at the session were addressed by republican President Saparmurad Niyazov. He congratulated the deputies and all citizens of the republic on the proclamation of Turkmenistan an independent democratic state and on the institution of a people's holiday—Turkmenistan's independence day—which will be marked every year on October 27.

Russian Population Concerned

LD2710182191 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Another independent, democratic state appeared on the map of our country today: Turkmenistan. This decision was adopted based on the results of the referendum in the republic yesterday.

At the extraordinary 10th session of the Supreme Soviet of the republic today, after the results of the voting were announced—94 percent of those who voted favored independence—the deputies adopted a law on establishing Turkmenistan as an indepedent, democratic state. The guests at the session, members of the Council of the Humanitarian Association of Turkmens of the World, also shared the joy of these ceremonial moments.

It should be noted that the attitude to holding the referendum was not unanimous. Representatives of the Russian-speaking population expressed particular concern, fearing the exacerbation of relations between the nationalities. After all, there are quite a few examples of conflicts arising between nationalities in the country on these grounds. But the numerous meetings between President Saparmurad Atayevich Niyazov and people's deputies and the electorate and the statement published in the press on future domestic and foreign policy convinced the electorate that independent Turkmenistan will defend the interests of people of all nationalities living on its territory. After all, up until now we have lived in peace and harmony, although, in our republic, as in all other regions of the Union, quite a few problems have accumulated.

Agricultural workers were the bearers of good news today. The plan for handing over raw cotton has been fulfilled—1.3 million of the valuable raw material has been gathered in. So there are grounds for celebrating. Inhabitants and guests of the Turkmen capital witnessed a great show at the Askhabad fairgrounds.